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Peres: No talk about borders with Syria

ISRAEL will not agree to take any big steps if the Syrians take only small ones, Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Explaining his statement, Peres said: "The Syrians will want the withdrawal from the Golan Heights to be in one or two steps, but the diplomatic relations to be in three or more."

According to an official briefing, Peres said the talks resuming at Maryland's Wye Plantation today will not include discussions on borders.

"The time is not ripe yet," he said. Water will be discussed, "but at the level of facts, not principles."

The talks today in Maryland will include military officials, for the first time since last June's chiefs-of-staff talks in Washington.

Participants include OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, the prime minister's military adviser, Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, and Syria's chief of military intelligence, Ibrahim Umar.

The Israeli team, led by Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, arrived in Washington Monday for preliminary consultations with American officials.

During the meeting of the Knesset panel, Peres rejected a proposal by MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) to discuss reducing arms.

"So far we're talking only about the informal exchange of ideas. Discus-

HILLEL KUTTLER and LIAT COLLINS

sions on territory have yet to begin. Until now they have discussed the aspect of 'dividends,' what each side will give the other. Now, before the start of the talks, I have told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the size of Israel's shoes is not different from that of Syria. We will not take a big step if they take a small one."

The Syrian state-run newspaper Tishreen yesterday said Syria "does not object to security arrangements that would disperse the Israeli fears and ensure peace at the same time."

"But it should be pointed out that exaggeration in security obsessions turns at the end into obstruction to the

peace process," it added, according to an AP report.

Peres again denied reports that Israel had asked the US for \$12 billion to compensate for its infrastructure on the Golan Heights.

"But it's clear in the future that the question of who will pay will arise," he added.

He said the US is interested in having the talks with Syria end positively by the end of 1996, but Israel has clarified that it will not link the negotiations to the Israeli elections. "The negotiations have their own pace," Peres said.

Asked by MK Emanuel Zissman (Labor) whether the US was linking the negotiations to their elections, Peres said: "There has never been a friendlier Congress and administration than the

present one."

Peres said the talks with Syria would be characterized by three main positions: that the negotiations would be independent and not conditional on any other state or the Palestinians; that an effort would be made to turn them eventually into an agreement that would include all Arab states and end wars in the Middle East; and that the final peace would be comprehensive and include economic components.

Meanwhile, a senior Israeli source in Washington said that to reach a peace treaty similar to that Egypt reached with Israel, Syrian President Hafez Assad does not have to change any of his positions.

(Continued on Page 2) Orr: Talks won't finish quickly, Page 2

Amir: I only wanted to hurt Rabin, not kill him

CONFESSED assassin Yigal Amir yesterday admitted killing prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, but denied intending to murder him. Amir told Tel Aviv District Court he merely intended to paralyze Rabin, "to remove him from his position as prime minister," at his plea hearing yesterday.

However, he added, "I have no regrets."

Since his lawyers Mordechai Offri and Jonathan Ray Goldberg had not decided on a line of defense and arrived unprepared for trial, Amir asked to represent himself.

Offri asked the court to release him from representing Amir and Judge Edmund Levy gave him until the next session of the trial on Sunday to "think over his decision."

Responding to the charge of premeditated murder, Amir said he had not intended to kill Rabin.

"I had nothing personal against the man, Yitzhak Rabin, only against his politics," he said. "I meant to paralyze him ... to injure him ... but if there was no choice, then death was also acceptable."

Looking calm and collected but tired, Amir spoke directly to Judge Levy, the head of the panel of three judges presiding.

At times Levy reminded him of his rights as a defendant and

RAINE MARCUS

warned him not to incriminate himself.

"I operated according to *din rodef* [death deserved by a persecutor], mentioned in the Torah," said Amir. "This was not an act of punishment which requires defense attorneys. From my point of view ... *din rodef* requires that the maximum be done before the death sentence. I did not mean to kill him. If he had been paralyzed and in hospital and unable to function as prime minister, that would have been sufficient."

At this point Levy stopped him from delivering a speech on *din rodef*.

"I am in a strange situation," said the judge. "I find myself having to explain the indictment to the defendant ... This is an intolerable situation."

Responding to the second charge relating to possible alternative methods of killing Rabin which he explored - including a booby trapped car or microphone - Amir replied that such methods "entered my head, but not realistically speaking, because I did not wish to injure other people."

However, he denied conspiring with his brother, Haggai, and Dror Adani, saying they were not partners in his crimes.

He also said he did not intend to kill Rabin earlier at a rally at

Yad Vashem. "I went armed - I always carried a gun - but I knew Rabin had already left," he said. He said the same regarding the alleged attempt to murder Rabin at an inauguration of the Kfar Shmaryahu interchange.

Amir constantly repeated that he did not mean to kill Rabin.

"I aimed one bullet at his back, because I knew I would hit him there," said Amir. "I didn't see where the other two went. I fired the other two bullets just to make sure. If I had meant to kill him, I would have shot him in the head."

Prosecutor Penina Guy produced four witnesses, but neither defense attorney nor Amir himself chose to cross-examine them, "since the investigation material is not in our hands."

The first witness, policeman Yoram Ben-Harush, said he questioned Amir when he was first taken to the Yavronok police station.

"Amir said that hollow point bullets were used deliberately," said Ben-Harush.

Detective Nissim Dandi, the second witness, said Amir "opened up fully during questioning, until we reached the subject of accomplices, when he suddenly became introverted and dried up."

"He gave fine details of the plan to kill Rabin, but when we



An artist's courtroom sketch shows Yigal Amir (center), as he stands in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday and tells Judge Edmund Levy (rear) that he did not intend to kill prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. (Reuters)

asked him if he was prepared to put his testimony in writing he refused," said Dandi.

The interrogations were secretly recorded and filmed. Supt. Yoav Gazit of the Na-

tional Crimes Squad told the court how the police found books and a letter written to Margalit Har-Shefi at Amir's Herzliya home. He also emphasized how Amir was willing to talk and con-

cess, except information regarding others.

The last witness, Insp. Yossi Gershon, who drove Amir to the police station following his arrest, said that when the defendant

heard Rabin had died from his wounds, he said he was "happy."

"But when I said that Rabin was not hurt, he replied, 'It's not possible, I aimed at him,'" said Gershon. Related stories P. 12

IDF to recall, reissue all weapons held by civilians

ON LEVY

STRINGENT new guidelines for distributing IDF weapons to civilians take effect March 1, according to rules formulated by the Operations Branch of the General Staff.

All civilians holding IDF weapons in Israel and the territories will be required to return them and undergo examinations to determine their fitness for receiving licenses to hold them in future. The reissuing procedure is expected to take "a number of weeks," according to a senior military source. Many of them will not receive a weapon in future, the source said.

The move comes in accordance with the conclusions of the Shamgar Commission of Inquiry into the Hebron massacre. In February 1994, Baruch Goldstein shot to death 29 Moslem worshippers with an M-16 rifle issued by the IDF for his own protection.

Licenses will be distributed according to procedures set by the Gun Licensing Law. A civilian who wants to obtain a gun license must meet a series of criteria, including having a clean bill of mental and physical health, having no criminal record, and having served in the IDF.

Peres: Terror leaders will stay away

LIAT COLLINS

GEORGE Habesh, Nawaf Hawatmeh, and other terror leaders realize it is not in their best interests to return to Israel or the territories, where Israel could monitor their actions more closely, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

"They understand better than the opposition in Israel that it's not worthwhile for them to return. From Israel's point of view, it's better they're here and not in Syria," Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Turning to the Palestinian Authority, Peres said it is showing utmost seriousness in dealing with terror, but added he is aware of Hamas and Islamic Jihad plans to carry out terror attacks in Israel.

"Any agreement between the PLO and Hamas doesn't interest me. I know that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are making an effort to hit Israel and are not succeeding," Peres said. He added that the PA is confiscating weapons from extremist groups.

While Peres denied any intent to free terrorists with Israeli blood on their hands, he noted that, "in the past, murderers like that have been released in return for corpses."

Peres and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat are to meet today at the Erez checkpoint for the first time since the Palestinian elections. Their meeting is expected to focus on Arafat's undertaking to repeal the articles of the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

(Continued on Page 4) PNC head returning to Jerusalem, Page 2

Proposed GSS law allows physical pressure in questioning, but sets limit

EVELYN GORDON

THE first law to regulate the General Security Service will still permit "physical pressure" in investigations, but with restrictions to bring the rules in line with the international convention against torture, Justice Minister David Liba'i told reporters yesterday.

Until now, there has been no law governing the GSS. This legal vacuum is problematic both for the service and for effective supervision of it, said deputy attorney-general Memi Mazouz. The GSS therefore drafted the current bill, which was then substantially changed by the Justice Ministry.

It is now being distributed to academics, lawyers and judges for comment, and will hopefully be submitted to the cabinet for approval, and then to the Knesset, within two months, Liba'i said.

"We tried to increase the element of supervision," he said. "There are limitations here that do not appear in the Landau Committee [rules governing GSS investigations]."

The bill states that "if a GSS investigator has reasonable grounds to believe that the suspect was involved in serious terrorist activity, and possesses information which it is essential to obtain immediately... [he may] use means that involve applying some sort of pressure on the suspect, if he is convinced that this is necessary to obtain information that will prevent the danger, and there is no other reasonable way to prevent the danger."

However, the law forbids "cruel or inhumane" methods, methods that injure the suspect's health, and methods that cause "severe pain or suffering."

"This formulation is in accordance with the international convention against torture," Liba'i said. "It also opens everything up

to the supervision of the High Court of Justice."

In addition, the permissible methods of interrogation, which will be drafted by the prime minister, will require approval by both a ministerial committee and a special Knesset committee.

Though there are already ministerial and Knesset committees on the GSS, they currently have no real power, Liba'i said. The proposed law, however, not only gives them the power to approve all regulations governing the service, but also gives them the right to demand information from either the head of the service or the service's internal auditor.

The bill also tries to define, and thereby limit, the GSS's functions. However, the definition is extremely broad, since it includes "any activity decided on by the cabinet which is meant to preserve and promote vital state interests."

Another change is that the service would answer to the cabinet, rather than the prime minister. Its head will also be appointed by the cabinet, rather than the prime minister, and he will serve for a maximum of seven years. Finally, the bill states that, except in special cases, clandestine searches of a person's property will require approval from a district court president, rather than the prime minister.

Initial responses to the bill from human rights activists were mixed. "That the issue is finally coming out of the closet is positive," attorney Avigdor Feldman, who has long fought to have GSS regulations made public, told Army Radio.

However, he said, the new law is far from sufficient, because it still shrouds in secrecy key regulations, such as what methods of investigation are permissible.

6 held for suspected stock manipulation

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday extended by three days the remands of two J.M. Eini Medical Industries' senior managers, three brokers from the Estrategia firm, and a bank manager, all suspected of stock manipulation.

The six were arrested by Securities Authority investigators on Monday night.

According to investigators, the price of J.M. Eini shares traded on the TASE rose 640% over the past six months, and volume of trade also increased dramatically.

The Estrategia brokers - Amnon Shani, Benny Sikon and Eli Nafati - and the senior managers, brothers Menahem and Ya'acov Eini, are suspected of artificially increasing trade volume and share prices. Full report, Page 8

Tiberias teens suspected of dealing drugs

DAVID RUDGE and LIAT COLLINS

MORE than 100 teenagers - most of them Tiberias high school pupils - are suspected of using or dealing drugs. Ha'amakim District police said yesterday.

The district spokesman said evidence had been collected against no less than 114 suspects, following three months of undercover work by drug squad detectives.

The operation, code-named "Solid Rock," has so far resulted in the arrest of 25 people, eight of them juveniles. More than 60 people have been questioned, and more arrests are expected, the spokesman said.

The breakthrough for police came when two teenagers purchased drugs from two known dealers. The juveniles, however, were not content just to use the drugs and started pushing them to friends, who in turn brought others to buy them.

Police said the drugs used and sold by the teens, some of whom have finished school and are due to begin army service, included hashish and Ecstasy tablets.

The spokesman noted that the Education Ministry, the schools where the suspects studied or are still studying, the parents and the IDF had been informed.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan told the Knesset's War on Drugs Committee yesterday that the Israeli Embassy and consulate in India had helped arrange the return of 24 youths last year after they had become involved in drug use there, and had either become ill or lost all their money.

There are currently five Israelis under arrest in India on drug-

related charges, he said.

The embassy in Thailand last year helped return 10 Israelis and the bodies of two who had died in drug-related incidents. Seven Israelis are serving prison sentences in Thailand for drug offenses and 15 more have been detained on drug charges.

Dayan said most of the youths had served in elite IDF units. He added that some families had also evacuated their own children without the embassies' help.

Dayan said the ministry had decided to send a representative to India to assess the situation. He said the ministry is also beginning to hear that some Israeli travelers to China are having drug-related run-ins with the law.

Committee chairman MK Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) blamed the educational system for the increase in drug use.

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Elderly PNC chairman to return to J'lem

JON IMMANUEL

THE government has authorized the return of Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayagh, the elderly chairman of the Palestinian National Council, to his home in Jerusalem, after having earlier said he must live in territory under Palestinian Authority control.

Sayagh, 93, who was deported in 1967, has been a vociferous opponent of the Oslo accords, saying they would divide the Palestinian people, and he opposes changing the PLO Covenant, which Yasser Arafat pledged to do within two months of convening the elected 88-member council.

However, Sayagh's son Bassam in Jerusalem said his father's attitude will change. "All the world has, and he must, too," the younger Sayagh said.

The return of Sayagh to the capital is termed a "humanitarian" gesture and is not meant to set a precedent.

Some other deportees - like the former Jerusalem mayor Rubhi Khatib, who returned even before the signing of the Oslo accords - have been allowed to return to Jerusalem. Khatib died at age 90, a few months after his return.

Another returnee is Bassam

Abu-Sharif, a one-time Popular Front terrorist turned peace activist and Arafat confidante, who arrived from Jordan yesterday.

Abu-Sharif, whose home was also in Jerusalem, plans to visit his family there but to live elsewhere. He supports changing the charter now to root out anti-Israeli clauses.

"We are opening a new phase of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, a new phase of cooperation for development of this region," he told reporters upon his arrival.

Arafat said he would convene the council "in one month" after the holy month of Ramadan ends.

Meanwhile, the council election results are continuing to raise accusations of fraud.

Two well-known candidates who narrowly lost in their districts yesterday suggested that vote tampering cost them their seats, as numerous reports of missing ballot boxes turning up hours and even days after they disappeared have cast a shadow over the election.

Zahira Kamal, a leading women's rights activist, lost a seat in Jerusalem by some 200 votes after appearing to have won.

"I demand an explanation of



Bassam Abu-Sharif shakes hands with an IDF officer yesterday after crossing the Allenby Bridge on his way to Jericho. (AP)

why the count was completed by 4 p.m. the day after the election and suddenly other ballot boxes turned up the following morning," she said on Israel Arabic Radio.

Mustafa Barghouti, a leading communist intellectual from the Palestine People's Party, who

lost a tight race for the final seat in Ramallah to West Bank Fatah council head Marwan Barghouti (a distant cousin), said, "The count exceeded the number of actual votes, especially in Ramallah. Some polling boxes took 24 hours to arrive from certain areas."

Bethlehem University dean of arts Mameel Hassasian, who was director of the Bethlehem District Election Commission, said, "I am very disappointed with the international observers. They were not in the villages, but only in the cities, where everything was dandy."

But he added, during a seminar on the elections, that while there may have been some cheating in the villages during the voting itself, he does not think there were any problems in the counting of the votes, which was done by reputable people without regard to political affiliation.

PM trades barbs with Netanyahu, Begin

LIAT COLLINS

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leaders exchanged sharp words at yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"The Arab plan in the short term is clear," said Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, "eliminating the security zone in the North and bringing Hizbullah closer to the border. The ra'is [Arafat] has already been elected and has declared through hints that Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine. The division of Jerusalem into two authorities will continue and you would even bring a million refugees into the areas given to the Palestinian Authority."

Peres responded that there is no basis to the claims and accused Netanyahu of "rumor-mongering." "It's not nice. There are

also rumors that you are forwarding a message to the Syrians to wait for you."

Netanyahu retorted: "What could I give Assad? Acre, Tiberias...?"

Another exchange of insults took place between Peres and MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) after Begin accused him of "going for broke, but with our cash box, not yours. You're even taking Arafat's eulogy for Yihye Ayyash lightly."

"You're always busy criticizing," responded Peres.

"One could think that the Likud did not go for broke with Camp David."

Begin replied, "We did go the whole way with Camp David but it would take the Egyptians six to

seven days to reach the Negev whereas on the Golan it's a matter of hours."

Begin also questioned Peres on the Fatah-Hamas agreement signed in Cairo on December 22, asking if the government realized that the pact allowed Hamas to attack Israelis as long as it did not do so from areas controlled by the P.A. Peres replied, "I don't know anything about a Fatah-Hamas agreement and I am not interested in it."

Begin then said he realized there was no limit to government cynicism when Peres declared in Munich 10 months ago "I am a Bavarian."

The exchange ended with Peres warning Begin "you are suffering from a lethal dose of

seriousness. You have no sense of humor."

Peres told Netanyahu that the Likud leader was scared to speak about withdrawal from the Golan Heights because of the elections, but that Netanyahu would be prepared to withdraw from the entire area if he could.

At the end of the meeting, Peres said: "There is no doubt that Israel's success with Jordan and the Palestinians has made an impression on Syrian President Hafez Assad. Although he tells the Palestinians they have been stupid he is nonetheless full of appreciation for the fact that Israel has done everything it promised."

He hinted that after the establishment of formal ties with Tunisia, relations with more Arab states are in the offing.

Orr: Syria talks will last longer than thought

DAVID RUDGE

PEACE talks with Syria are likely to last far longer than first thought, Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr said yesterday.

Orr, who spoke to reporters during a visit to Nahariya and communities in the Western Galilee, said the Syrians had not yet made clear their definition of peace. "We know very well what the Syrians want, but we don't know yet what they want to give," said Orr.

"Therefore, in my estimation, it will take a lot longer than what some people thought, although as far as I am aware, nobody [really] believed it [the negotiations] would go quickly."

"The speculation in the media,

over whether there will be [early] elections or not is not correct and there should be no attempt to connect the elections with the negotiations with the Syrians," he said.

Orr was asked about the relative quiet in south Lebanon in the past few weeks. "The Syrians are responsible, but also the IDF, which is continuously carrying out many quiet activities, as well as South Lebanese Army troops, and [to some extent] the Lebanese government," said Orr. "They all understand that they don't have a solution yet and prefer this situation, but nobody can guarantee that this [relative quiet] will last for any great length of time," he added.

E. European officials commit to restitution

MARLYN HENRY

IN a historic meeting, five Eastern European officials last night committed their states to the restitution of Jewish property.

Officials of Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania made a special trip to Jerusalem to tell Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the World Jewish Restitution Organization that their governments accept responsibility for restitution of property the Jews lost in the World War II era.

However, with the exception of a school building in Estonia, no property has yet to be returned, although the states have signed agreements with the WIRO or passed legislation intended to restitute Jewish communal or private property.

Property restitution, already a legal tangle, is complicated by constraints that vary by country. Some would require citizenship or residency as a condition of restitution.

Krzysztof Sliwinski of Poland's Foreign Ministry, for example, said last night that pending legislation stipulates that all recovered property must be used to enhance Jewish life in Poland and includes a ban on transferring abroad the assets from recovered property.

"To those who want to reclaim citizenship, we extend our assistance," he said.

Stuart Eizenstat, US envoy to the European Union, told a meeting of the World Jewish Congress this week that progress on restitution is slow and difficult.

Reporting on a recent trip to the region, Eizenstat said Jewish organizations needed to redouble their efforts to recover the property.

Jewish organizations, he said, should "take a moral decision to use their own financial resources - at least until there are sufficient revenues generated from returned communal property - to ensure that survivors can live on the balance of their lives in dignity."

The WIRO, in consultation with representatives of the local communities, has been negotiating for the restitution of property and bank accounts in all Eastern European states, with the exception of Germany.

MKs to discuss compensation with Kiryat Arba residents

HERB KEINON

MERETZ MKs Benny Temkin and Anat Maoz are scheduled to meet this evening in Kiryat Arba with a group of residents who are lobbying the government to pay them compensation so they can leave the settlement now.

Sima Mizrahi, a 20-year veteran of the settlement who organized the meeting, said she is expecting representatives from 85 families. But Kiryat Arba Local Council officials said these numbers are exaggerated.

"We are asking for reasonable compensation to leave," said Mizrahi. "We are not looking for places in Herzliya, Savon or Ramat Aviv, but money that will allow us to purchase apartments inside the Green Line that are

similar to what we have now." Mizrahi said she likes the quality of life in Kiryat Arba, but that the security situation on the roads, and her fear of what will happen when the IDF redeployments in Hebron, is making living there too difficult.

Mizrahi, who said she received a telephone threat when she went public with plans for the meeting earlier this month, said police will be on hand to make sure that no one disrupts it.

But Zuri Popovitch, a spokesman for the Kiryat Arba Local Council, said no one has any plans to try to stop the meeting.

"We understand their pain and

cannot stop them from doing what they want," Popovitch said.

"But if they feel they have to leave Kiryat Arba because of a deterioration in security, this is an indictment of the government - which is supposed to provide security - not us."

Since the local council refused to let the group hold the meeting in the settlement's community center, it will take place in the bomb shelter of a local apartment building.

Popovitch said the local council is opposed to the government paying compensation now, in the same way that Kiryat Shmona

would be opposed to the government paying people compensation to leave that city because of Katyusha rocket attacks. Popovitch accused the group of looking for a financial windfall. The government's official position is that since it does not intend to move any settlements now, it will not at present pay compensation to settlers who want to relocate.

In addition to Maoz and Temkin, Peace Now political secretary Mosey Raz will be at the meeting. Peace Now has for months supported various groups in the territories who have organized and asked for compensation to leave their settlements now.

A.B. Yehoshua to world Jewry: We don't need you

ONE of the country's most prominent authors, A.B. Yehoshua, had a blunt message yesterday for the world's Jewish community: "We don't need you any more."

"We do not need either the money... nor the political support," Yehoshua told an assembly of the World Jewish Congress, an umbrella organization of Jewish groups.

Yehoshua said the funeral of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, attended by hundreds of foreign dignitaries, showed that Israel no longer needs help from overseas Jews to confirm its legitimacy.

"Go outside, you see a prosperous state - a blooming state," he said. "For it to take money is a real crime."

Neither, he said, does most of Israel's population want more Jewish immigration. "How can we inject new life in the relationship?" Yehoshua asked, and answered himself with four suggestions:

- End the debate on the question of "Who is a Jew?"
- "A Jew is someone who defines himself as such," Yehoshua said. "Who is a citizen of Israel is a totally different question."
- Any Jew should be allowed to come to Israel, he said, but there should be stricter requirements for citizenship, such as knowledge of Hebrew.
- Learn Hebrew.

"We don't want to talk to you in broken English or French," Yehoshua said. "We're going to talk to you only in Hebrew. Don't give any more money to Israel. You should invest this money in Hebrew education, teachers - whatever it takes."

• Transform Israel into "a giving society."

Yehoshua suggested that Israel and the Jewish community establish a "learning task force" that would send teachers into Third World countries.

• Get more involved in issues affecting the rest of the world. (AP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reservist killed

A reservist, 30, from Karmiel was killed on an army base in the north last night when a gun went off accidentally, the IDF spokesman reported. The spokesman said that the soldier's had been informed and that the military police were investigating the incident. David Rudge

Postal rates up

Postal rates will increase this morning by an average of 6 percent, after the Knesset Economics Committee approved the Postal Authority's proposed hikes. A regular domestic letter will now cost NIS 1.05 (compared with the previous rate of NIS 1); an aerogram costs NIS 1.20; and a domestic package up to one kilo is NIS 8.50. A regular airmail letter up to 20 grams to the US costs NIS 1.90 and NIS 1.60 to Europe. A domestic telegram costs NIS 18.50. The authority says the last time postal rates were hiked was March 19, 1995. Judy Siegel

Pollard to get Israeli citizenship today

Interior Minister Haim Ramon will today grant Israeli citizenship and a passport to Jonathan Pollard, serving a life sentence in the US for spying for Israel. The decision was made by Ramon's predecessor, Ehud Barak, after efforts to obtain the citizenship by Pollard's wife, Esther. Esther Pollard said the citizenship would help Pollard in his efforts to receive a pardon or a parole. Ilim

Barak meets with congressional leaders

Foreign Minister Haim Barak ended his trip to Washington yesterday with a series of meetings with members of Congress, including the heads of both houses' appropriations committees, various influential Republican congressmen, and Jewish legislators of both houses. Barak summed up recent developments, including the Palestinian elections and the peace talks with Syria. He stressed that unless the Palestinians show they are forcefully combatting terror and agree to change the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's destruction, the final-status talks would not proceed. Jerusalem Post Staff

Educational Television gets budget boost

Educational Television (ETV) yesterday announced a 1996 budget of some NIS 127 million, some NIS 91m. of which is an increase in its base funding of NIS 15m. over 1995. Helen Kaye

Speaker can ban inciters from Knesset

The Knesset Speaker has the right to ban from the Knesset compound anyone who is considered to be a racial inciter, under a law which passed last night. Liat Collins

Lebanese prosecutor demands death penalty for Lahad

DAVID RUDGE

A LEBANESE military prosecutor demanded the death penalty in the indictment filed yesterday against South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

News agencies said the indictment against Lahad, on charges of high treason, was the last legal step before Lahad is tried, in absentia, by a military tribunal.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah is stepping up its psychological war against the SLA in tandem with its recent wave of attacks on the force in the security zone.

Hizbullah radio yesterday claimed that 28 SLA soldiers had defected to its ranks in the past

two months. The radio broadcast gave the names of the alleged defectors and their home villages in the zone.

On a separate matter, Lebanese radio stations reported yesterday that SLA troops had entered Rashaf village, a Shiite village in the western sector of the zone, and took away nine local residents.

There have been reports in the Lebanese press in the past few weeks, emanating from Rashaf, that some residents have been moved at night to houses near the SLA's position in the village.

OU president calls for emphasis on education

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE time has come for Jews to stop looking for swastikas on the walls of public toilets, says an American Jewish leader.

Dr. Mandell Ganchrow, the president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (OU), now holding its annual convention in Jerusalem, believes it is important to combat antisemitism but the Jewish community does not need several organizations to do so. On the other hand, he says, there is a need for the American Jewish community to pool its efforts for Jewish education.

"Every Jewish child should be able to walk into an after-school education program for free," he says.

He says the OU has a proven track record in motivating Jewish youngsters. The OU takes public school youngsters with no synagogue affiliation, he says, and after participating in the OU's summer "Jerusalem Experience" in Israel, half begin some form of Jewish education. A third of the unaffiliated youth who join the OU's National Council of Syna-

gogue Youth (NCSY) become Shabbat observers, he says. The youth group has some 40,000 members, he says, with another 2,000 in special programs for the developmentally disabled and the deaf. There are plans to include a program for the blind as well, he says.

The OU, with 1,000 constituent synagogues, representing almost 600,000 members, is perhaps best known for its kashrut supervision, which now extends over some 20,000 products and includes the world's largest computerized list of kosher products.

The American Orthodox community also has a reputation as a staunch supporter of Israel's right wing, an impression which Ganchrow says is not valid. He describes the OU as "centrist."

"We support the [Israeli] government. We always have."

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street, 2nd Floor. Will speak on "Jerusalem 3000."

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President Ezer Weizman bids farewell at Beit Hanassi yesterday to Ali Yehie, Israel's new ambassador to Finland, who leaves to take up his post there this week. (Israel Hertz)

Ministry official tries to block building objections in Arabic

A GOVERNMENT official threatened to reject Arab residents' objections to the controversial Har Homa building project in southern Jerusalem on grounds they were written in Arabic, and not Hebrew.

However, after a query about the language policy from *The Jerusalem Post*, the threat was lifted and a statement released that objections in Arabic would be accepted, as in the past.

"We are talking about a senior government official who apparently missed his grade-school lessons on this being a nation of two official languages," said attorney Danny Seidemann.

Seidemann last week received a letter from Eli Souissa, the Interior Ministry's Jerusalem District head, stating that the objec-

tions in Arabic the attorney had sent to his office would be accepted only if they were translated to Hebrew.

The objections were from residents of Umm Tuba and Beit Sahur who oppose building a Jewish neighborhood on land confiscated from them at Har Homa, which borders the two communities.

The law gives the public 60 days after publication of a building plan for objections to be submitted to and then ruled on by the district planning commission.

The Har Homa plan was published in mid-November. If Souissa had gone ahead with his threat, the bulk of objections would not have been presented to

the commission.

Souissa, who is also the commission chairman, sent a letter identical to the one he sent Seidemann to the mayor of Beit Sahur.

"If within three days a professional translation is not received," the objections will be rejected, the letters stated.

After receiving his letter, Seidemann immediately responded to Souissa that the "Hebrew-only" policy is illegal. Souissa, however, never replied to the attorney.

Yesterday morning, the Post asked the ministry spokeswoman for a reaction.

She replied: "Arabs who filed objections in Arabic were asked by the planning office to translate

them - in order to ease the process and make the objections understandable.

"For those who refused to do this, for whatever unknown and puzzling reason, their objections were translated by the Jerusalem Municipality, and after the translations have been received, will be considered."

The Post has learned that, after the inquiry was made, Souissa made arrangements to translate the objections into Hebrew.

Seidemann said none of the 35 objections dealt with by him and the mayor were resubmitted in Hebrew and they were not receiving special treatment - just as Arabic-language objections were filed with no problems in the past.

Histadrut steps up battle against Polgat in the Ouman dispute

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut stepped up its battle against Polgat yesterday, accusing it of reneging on the severance fee agreement reached with the workers of the Ouman textile plant in Ofakim.

Ouman's workers continued yesterday to entrench themselves in the closed plant, and demonstrated and set fires on fire at the entrance. The workers intend to demonstrate outside Polgat shops all over the country today.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz, who came to support Ouman's workers at the Ofakim plant yesterday, said "We have no choice but to widen the battle and take stronger measures against Polgat, since it appears this is the only language they understand."

The Ouman dispute flared up

again this week, after Polgat, which had reached a severance fee agreement with the Histadrut and Ouman's workers, announced that the basis for calculating the fees is 72 percent less than the sum previously agreed upon.

In addition, Polgat stated that it would not include the premium component in the workers' wages - which constituted 30% of the workers' pay - as part of the severance fee agreement. Without the premium, many workers' pay reaches no more than minimum wages, so that a worker with 12 years' seniority is to receive severance fees of no more than NIS 10,000.

Polgat's management yesterday accused the Histadrut of sabotaging the negotiations.

Histadrut demands changes in cost of living agreement

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE negotiations over the Cost of Living increment due in February's wages began last night between the Histadrut and the employers.

The Histadrut is demanding to change the COL increment agreement, so workers are compensated even when inflation is low.

Last February, workers received a 2.6% increase for inflation, according to the now expired COL agreement under which no COL increment was paid if inflation over six months was less than 6%. As a result of the low inflation, no COL increase was due last August and the workers received a half percent increase as an advance on the upcoming increment.

The six-month inflation figure that is to serve as the basis for February's COL increment is expected to be about 6%.

Now the Histadrut is demanding a new system to calculate the COL increment. The Histadrut's acting trade union section head Efraim Zilony said "we must formulate a new system which will provide an answer for the erosion of wages even in relatively low inflations, in order to preserve the wage agreements and not to undermine the labor relations in the country."

However, the employers insist on continuing the old COL increment system, and Manufacturers Association representative Yossi Getenyu said yesterday that the old system is suitable for an annual inflation rate of "one digit or even two digits, up to a certain point."

The two sides must reach an agreement by the middle of Feb-

ruary, if the workers are to receive any compensation in next month's pay slip, due at the beginning of March.

In another development, Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz launched a scathing attack on the Finance Ministry, following reports that the Treasury is looking into raising the health tax by 1/4%.

Peretz noted that only three months ago, the ministry reduced the *mas mukbil* (the tax employers pay for workers' health insurance) by 2%.

"Now the Finance Ministry is looking for ways to compensate its coffers on the backs of the workers, whom it expects to pay for the difference," Peretz said.

The sum which the Treasury reportedly aims to gain by raising the health tax will reach NIS 2.2 billion.

Peretz added that in the past, the government financed all the expenses of elderly invalids, state hospitals, medical treatment for the needy and the mental health department. "Consequently, the government today is paying less than it did in the past." He warned the government "not to consider imposing yet another tax burden on hired workers."

Peretz suggested that the Treasury cover its health cost deficits by canceling the reduction it granted employers rather "than stick its hand once more into the workers' pockets, which is always the easiest solution."

He pointed out that raising the health tax yet again would harm the lower income classes and pensioners, who did not benefit from the income tax reforms in 1994-1995.

Histadrut: Rafael workers to continue sanctions

DAVID RUDGE

HISTADRUT officials yesterday instructed Rafael employees to continue sanctions, despite a management order not to bother reporting for work if they continue their disruptions.

Yigal Cohen, head of the trade union department in Histadrut's Haifa branch, said his office had instructed the workers to ignore management's order and to continue to work to rule.

The sanctions, which include refusing to work overtime, not answering telephone calls and not operating computers, have had a crippling effect on production at the armaments development authority.

Management also said it will not pay the workers' salaries - even if they do report to work -

as long as the sanctions continue.

Cohen said the sanctions were in response to management's intransigent attitude in the negotiations over dismissal terms for 250 state employees who are to be fired.

The National Labor Court on Sunday rejected an appeal by the Rafael workers and the Histadrut against the decision of the Civil Service Commission to dismiss the government employees.

Cohen said the Histadrut and the workers would abide by the court's ruling and were now beginning talks with management, the Treasury and the commission, over the terms for those to be dismissed.

Talks were due to take place in Tel Aviv last night and continue today. Cohen maintained that management was disrupting the negotiations by insisting, as a prior condition, that the workers accept the plans to turn Rafael into a public company.

This would mean cutting the 4,300-strong workforce by a total of 1,200 people by the end of this year.

The Histadrut is pressing for these plans to be deferred by at least three years to assess the chances of running the concern on a more viable basis under its present structure.

Cohen said the Histadrut's first concern was to get the best possible terms for those to be dismissed.

'Automatic cameras could lower road deaths'

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE thought of automatic cameras spotting you whenever you speed may not be an attractive one to many Israeli drivers, but such cameras could save your life, according to Dr. Eilith Richter of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School's occupational and environmental health department.

Speaking at a one-day seminar organized by Metuna, the Road Safety Organization, Richter cited a series of measures implemented by the Australian state of Victoria which almost halved the number of deaths from traffic accidents there - from 800 a year in 1989 to 415 in 1995.

In Israel, the number of road deaths fell from 1975 to 1982 - from over 700 to just over 400 - but since that time the number killed annually has risen to

over 500 in 1994 and 1995.

With the proper safeguards, Richter said Israel could lower the number of road deaths to less than 200 a year by the year 2000.

Based upon the Victoria model, Richter said Israel should have 60 automatic speed cameras throughout the country, which could not only record speeding, but also offenses such as tailgating. Offenders would get automatic fines, relieving overburdened traffic courts, and the fines would pay for enforcement.

The campaign should also include massive breath testing, to fight the increasing plague of drunk driving, as well as compulsory installation of governors to limit the speed of trucks. These measures should be accompanied

by a massive public relations campaign, to make the public aware of how they would benefit, he said.

Richter challenged Transport Ministry findings that the increased highway speed limit of 100 km/h had not resulted in more road deaths. The ministry had not included findings for the 10 months preceding and two months following the increase in November 1993, he said, during which there was a sharp increase in road accidents.

'New bladder' technique offers normal lives for cancer patients

JUDY SIEGEL

SHEBA Hospital doctors have brought to Israel a German technique that allows patients who lost a bladder to cancer to urinate through a tiny hole in their navel, without having to wear plastic collection bags.

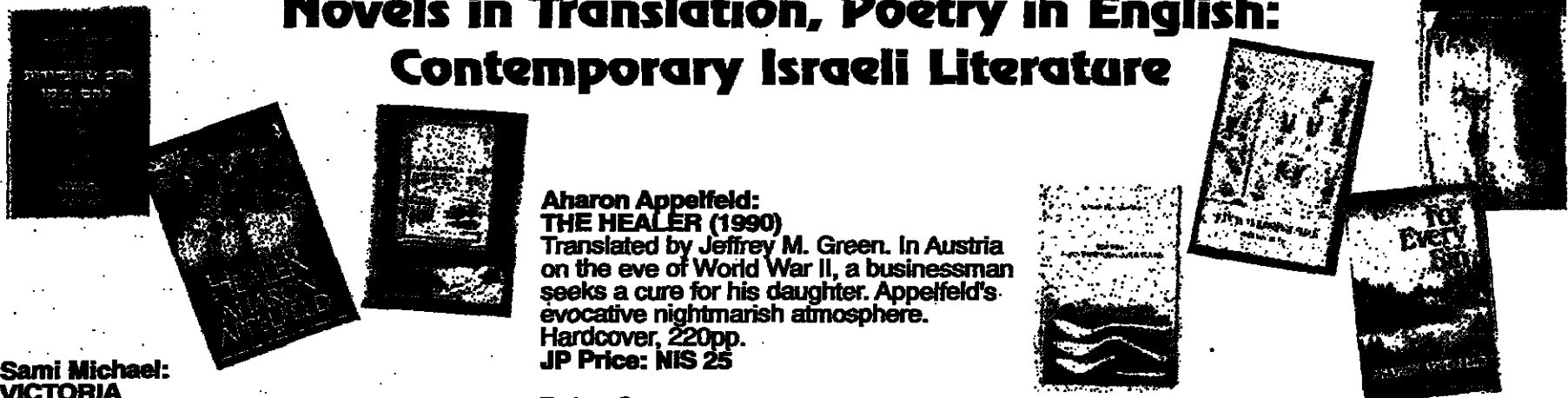
The technique - which is not suited to all patients whose bladder has been removed - can offer a near-normal life by rerouting urine from the kidneys into a new bladder constructed from a piece of intestine and fitted into the lower right abdomen. The patient's appendix is adapted as a one-way valve that prevents leaking.

The new bladder can hold up to a liter of urine and fill up overnight, just as a regular bladder. To empty it, the patient inserts a catheter (which need not be

sterile) into the navel. Dr. Jacob Ramon, who learned the technique here a year ago from Prof. Rudolph Hohenfeller of Mainz, said yesterday that of the seven patients who have undergone the procedure, none has suffered any of the infections common to those with urinary stomas and collection bags.

Patients - men and women - are freed from the embarrassment and inconvenience of having to wear urine bags under their clothing. They can control the expulsion of urine, instead of it being eliminated into the bag whenever it is produced by the kidneys, Ramon explained. He said some patients can feel when their new bladder is full; others merely empty it several times a day.

Novels in Translation, Poetry in English: Contemporary Israeli Literature



Aharon Appelfeld: THE HEALER (1990)

Translated by Jeffrey M. Green. In Austria on the eve of World War II, a businessman seeks a cure for his daughter. Appelfeld's evocative nightmarish atmosphere. Hardcover, 220pp. JP Price: NIS 25

Sami Michael: VICTORIA

Translated by Dalya Bilu (1995). First reviewed in *The Jerusalem Post* in 1993 upon its publication in Hebrew, Jeff Green noted that Michael is "an enthusiastic storyteller who does not shy away from high drama." Sensual, poetic atmosphere. Paperback, 343pp. JP Price: NIS 54

Baty Gaur: MURDER ON A KIBBUTZ: A Communal Case

Translated by Dalya Bilu (1994). The third Michael Ohayon mystery with plenty of "local color," by the author of *The Saturday Morning Murder and Literary Murder*. Paperback, 356pp. JP Price: NIS 45

Aharon Appelfeld: FOR EVERY SIN (1989)

Translated by Jeffrey M. Green. In post-Holocaust eastern Europe, Theo, a young student, makes his way home, intending to go "in a straight line." Hardcover, 168pp. JP Price: NIS 25

Itzhak Yanai (Kashisha): LONELINESS IS HIS DAILY BREAD

Bilingual edition, English translation by Izhak Arnon (1995). Yaron Golan Publishing House, softcover, 48pp. JP Price: NIS 25

Karen Alkaisy-Gut: RECIPES: Love Soup and Other Poems (1993)

Translator, poet, teacher at Tel Aviv University. Yaron Golan Publishing, softcover, 64pp. JP Price: NIS 20

O.B. Kraus: THE PAINTED WALL (1994)

Diaries of Alex Ehren describing life in the Children's Block during the last three months of the Family Camp in Birkenau. Real events, in a fictional form. Yaron Golan, softcover, 224pp. JP Price: NIS 36

Environmental groups to be able to file charges against polluters

THE Knesset passed a law last night which will enable environmental groups to file charges against polluters on behalf of citizens who may suffer from an environmental hazard.

The bill, initiated by MK Benny Temkin (Meretz), passed second and third readings easily. "The law for the prevention of environmental hazards which is intended to allow citizens to file charges against polluters has not been fully utilized until now," Temkin said. "Until the amendment of this law, only a citizen directly affected could file charges. It was difficult to prove having been directly affected, and the expense and bother of filing such a suit deterred many people."

Under the new law, any citizen who feels he is suffering or is likely to suffer from pollution can file the complaint, and environmental groups such as the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Israel Union for Environmental Defense which have access to legal counseling can file the complaint.

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Activists, politicians hail Zulu peace plan

DURBAN (Reuters) - Peace activists and politicians yesterday hailed plans for a Zulu peace meeting which could reconcile warring supporters of President Nelson Mandela's ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha.

Mandela, concerned at political murders in the Zulu heartland, last week proposed a peace plan involving Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and traditional chiefs in Kwa-Zulu-Natal province where over 14,000 people have been killed in a decade of bloodshed.

The president will report to Zwelithini tomorrow - Mandela's second visit to the Zulu monarch in less than a week - on the progress of initiatives to end the bloodletting, Mandela's spokesman Parks Mankahlana said. "He (Mandela) is thrilled by the progress that is being made. All indications are that this will open up a lot of avenues to making peace. He is very excited about it."

Mankahlana said tradition dictated that Mandela had to travel to the king of the country's nine million Zulus.

"Tradition dictates that the king is above Mandela. Mandela must go to the king. The king cannot go to him," he said.

Buthelezi, Mandela's main black political rival, yesterday sanctioned the peace plans, including the calling of an imbizo (trad-

itional gathering) by the king at which the monarch, Mandela and Buthelezi would be able to preach peace.

Mandela told reporters last week that he wanted to deliver a strong message of peace at the imbizo at which complaints and demands from the Zulu nation could also be put to him in his capacity as head of state.

"We must now concentrate all our energies to ensure that violence is stopped...I want to send a strong message of peace that we can't continue in this situation," he said.

Local peace workers said the gathering was long overdue.

Dennis Nkosi, director of the KwaZulu-Natal Peace Committee, echoed Mandela's concerns that a "third force" was fanning the conflict between ANC and Inkatha supporters to destabilise the government and undermine the country's 21-month-old democracy.

"Both parties are aware that there is some force involved in the violence. It's for that reason that it's overdue and so important that the ANC and IFP should stand up, come together and fight this anti-peace element," Nkosi said.

"It's quite a major start towards reconciliation. The three leaders can actually pave the way for provincial leaders and other organisations on the ground to continue," he added.

British right-wingers attack EU once again

LONDON (Reuters) - Conservative "Euro-skeptics" launched a new broadside against the European Union yesterday and urged Prime Minister John Major to resist further encroachment on the powers of the British parliament.

The right-wing nationalists, who fiercely oppose the transfer of more authority to Brussels, published a pamphlet decrying a flood of EU legislation that parliament had little opportunity to vet.

"The people of this country would be truly appalled to discover that their democratically elected representatives are becoming increasingly disenfranchised in their own parliament," the booklet, called "Dire Directives," said.

It was written by seven of the eight Euro-rebels briefly expelled from the Conservative parliament-

ary party for defying Major over Europe in November 1994 and by another, Sir Richard Body, who quit in sympathy and rejoined only last week.

"The process of legislation in Brussels denies every tenet of democracy and therefore the British people cannot claim any longer to live in a true democracy," Body told reporters.

This pamphlet demonstrates how the government of this country is now beyond democratic control," fellow member of parliament Richard Shepherd told the same news conference.

Unlike some of the Euro-skeptics' past tirades, this latest salvo will be a help rather than a hindrance to Major as he strives to paper over the cracks in his deeply divided party.

Austria asks why its leaders were unaware of US arsenals

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austrian media expressed surprise yesterday that leaders were unaware of secret US arms caches hidden around country as part of contingency plans for a Soviet advance on Austria after World War II.

Historians argued that the storage of rifles, pistols and grenades in 79 so-far undisclosed locations was carried out with the full knowledge, and collaboration, of the post-1945 government of chancellor Leopold Figl.

"It seems unimaginable that information about the US arms depots had not been passed on at government level since Figl," the daily Die Presse said.

Franz Olah, interior minister in the 1960s, said the government knew the arsenals existed but not necessarily where they were hidden or what they contained.

Austria's current chancellor Franz Vranitzky was informed of the caches on Saturday by the US ambassador. The softly-spoken chancellor responded with uncharacteristic bluntness.

"It is not in keeping with the excellent relations between our countries that we should only hear of the secret depots now," he said.

He demanded Washington give his government exact details of the depots, their locations and whether they posed any danger.

Vranitzky said after a cabinet meeting yesterday that US experts were due to visit Vienna at the weekend to discuss the arsenals.



This computer illustration shows the Galileo probe penetrating Jupiter's hostile atmosphere, where it found very strong winds but little water. It is forcing scientists to rethink their theories of the planet's formation, NASA said on Monday. The probe was able to record data for nearly an hour before being crushed by Jupiter's atmospheric pressure. (Reuters)

US threatens Bosnia with aid cutoff over refusal to exchange prisoners

News agencies
WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is threatening to delay equipping and training the Bosnian army and to withhold reconstruction assistance if prisoners are not exchanged promptly.

Christopher said the prisoner exchange agreement between the Moslem-led government and the Serbs was an unconditional one. While some prisoners were released "it has not been satisfactory yet," he said on the PBS-TV "Newshour with Jim Lehrer."

Otherwise, Christopher said, the Dayton accords, the results of negotiations to end the fighting in Bosnia, were being implemented well. To end the war in Bosnia were being implemented well.

In sarajevo, the Moslem-led government promised to release more prisoners of war yesterday in response to Christopher's warning.

US officials and NATO peacekeepers are keen to complete the delayed release of all prisoners, which is a key element of the Bosnian peace accord.

The government has balked at meeting the demand until its Bosnian Serb foes provide information about thousands of Moslem men

missing in Serb hands during the 3 1/2-year war. Many are feared dead.

US human rights envoy John Shattuck said after talks with President Alija Izetbegovic: "I was assured by the president that he will continue to release prisoners."

The deadline for the exchange of prisoners was last Friday. The Moslems are holding back hundreds of Serbs for an accounting from the Serbs of 24,000 people missing in the conflict.

Christopher said that was not a legitimate demand "in the sense that they're entitled to keep back their prisoners until it happens." He said the prisoner exchange was an unconditional obligation.

Asked what the United States could do, Christopher said, "We will not go forward with the equip-and-train unless they are in compliance with the agreement. They'll not have a right to reconstruction funds unless they're in compliance with the agreement."

Overall, though, Christopher said he was not

discouraged and that compliance was reasonable. "People seem to be trying to comply," he said.

The requirement that foreign forces leave Bosnia is complicated, he said. For example, he said, some soldiers married Bosnian women during the war, and "it would probably be quite hard to find out whether or not they actually have left the country."

US military aid is important to the Bosnian government although it has also signed a deal with Turkey, another main backer, for the training of its armed forces.

NATO has only until the end of 1996 to implement the peace treaty before the planned withdrawal of American troops who comprise a third of the alliance's 60,000 force.

US officials have sympathized with the Moslems' desire to establish what happened to those missing but NATO cannot afford to miss its tight program of deadlines for the implementation of treaty decisions.

The former warring Moslem, Serb and Croat sides exchanged 225 of the 900 registered prisoners of war by the deadline last Friday. The rest are still in jail.

Hostage's letter from Indonesian jungle relays fears

JAKARTA (Reuters) - A Dutchman among 13 hostages held by rebels in a remote Indonesian jungle village in a letter from the rebel hideout that the longer the two-week drama goes on "the more we fear for our safety."

The letter was released by the World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature yesterday, as sources close to the rescue operation in Irian Jaya province said preparations were under way for the expected return of the hostages in a few days.

"We are still in good condition as we are still treated with respect. However, the more time passes the more we fear for our safety and those of the villagers. Time is crucial," WWF worker Mark Van der Wal wrote in his letter, dated Sunday.

Van der Wal is one of six Europeans - another Dutch national and four British - still held in a remote jungle village by a band of rebels of the Free Papua Movement, or OPM, since January 8. Seven Indonesians were also being held.

The rebels on January 8 seized altogether 26 hostages - seven foreigners and the rest Indonesian. Last week they released 11 Indonesians and a German, Frank Mombert, as an intermediary. This week another Indonesian was freed.

The military and diplomats have been working to release the hostages and have said they hoped to secure their freedom this week.

A key event would be another plane trip to the hostage site by missionaries acting as intermedi-

aries, possibly today, one source close to the rescue operation said.

"Whether there will be any extra passengers on the way out is completely unclear at the moment," he said.

"I wouldn't go as far as saying we hope so, that would be putting it too positively, but I don't absolutely exclude it. I wouldn't put it more strongly than that," the source said.

The hostage letter, received by WWF local head Russell Betts in Jakarta, said the kidnapers felt their message had yet to be taken seriously by the Indonesian government or the world.

"It is obviously of vital importance the world now bears about the background to the OPM struggle. So far the people feel their cause has not been taken

White House plays down Hillary Clinton subpoena

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bill Clinton yesterday was described as confident that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will satisfy the questions of an independent counsel who has summoned her to testify before a grand jury.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry sought to play down the public relations nightmare created by the subpoena issued by special counsel Kenneth Starr, which for the first time forces a first lady to appear before a grand jury.

Her testimony, set for Friday in a closed Washington courtroom, cast a shadow over one of the most important events in President Clinton's political life - his State of the Union address late last night, crafted to serve as the unofficial start of his re-election campaign.

Asked about the president's reaction to the subpoena, McCurry said: "He's confident in the first lady."

Mrs Clinton's appearance represents a fact-finding step and does not mean she is a target of a criminal investigation. She has given Starr's office sworn testimony three times but was never ordered to appear before the grand jury.

The 23-member panel has been looking into the tangled Whitewater affair and is believed to be examining whether there was any effort to obstruct justice in withholding records long sought by federal investigators.

Mrs Clinton and the president have denied any wrongdoing, and described the controversies swirling around them as driven purely by partisan politics. Her summons before the panel was prompted by the Jan. 4 discovery of billing records from the 1980s, when Mrs Clinton was a partner in a Little Rock law firm and her husband was Arkansas governor.

The records were discovered by White House aide Carolyn Huber, who told the Senate Whitewater Committee last week that she stumbled across them on a table in the highly restricted family quarters of the White House. They detail Mrs Clinton's legal work in the mid-1980s for a failed Arkansas savings and loan owned by the Clintons' business partner in the Whitewater land development project.

George Burns said to be near death

NEW YORK (AP) - American comedian George Burns is too weak to eat and is near death, and the gravity of his condition is being kept quiet, New York Post columnist Cindy Adams reported yesterday.

Burns, who turned 100 on Saturday, "is not eating. He is not taking solid foods. Not that he doesn't want to. He is not able," Adams reported.

"The possibility is he will be placed on intravenous feeding shortly. There has been a debate among his closest as to whether this should be done. The truth of his condition is being kept quiet," she wrote.

"He is barely remaining alive." The comedian's manager, Irving Fein, said Burns was weak and "not eating much."

The columnist, wife of comedian Joey Adams, also reported that Burns is confined to bed and hardly responded to Fein and old friend Barry Meikin, who visited him on his birthday.

Burns, who was using a wheelchair to get around, stopped performing after he was injured in a bathtub fall in 1994. More recently, he caught the flu after attending Frank Sinatra's Christmas party, and two weeks ago, he stopped his daily trips to his Hollywood office and to the Hillcrest Country Club to play bridge.

Subdued O.J. Simpson testifies in civil suit

LOS ANGELES (AP) - With Ron Goldman's father watching from across a long conference table, O.J. Simpson was subdued and soft-spoken as he testified for the first time since the killings of his ex-wife and Goldman.

The former American football hero was so quiet at times that he couldn't be heard as he responded to a battery of questions from Fred Goldman's lawyer, according to another attorney who witnessed the videotaped deposition.

Testimony in the private proceeding was to continue yesterday. Michael Brewer, who represents Ron Goldman's mother, Sharon Ruffo, said lawyers would focus on Simpson's whereabouts on June 12, 1994, when Ms. Simpson and Ron Goldman were slashed to death outside Ms. Simpson's condominium.

Lawyers were also expected to ask about Simpson's alibi and his relationship with his ex-wife, Brewer said.

Simpson, who was acquitted of

criminal charges of murder Oct. 3, never testified at his trial. His only detailed statement was made to detectives the day after the slayings. The jury never saw a transcript or heard the tape.

Still pending despite the acquittal is the civil lawsuit filed by the families of the victims alleging their deaths were wrongfully caused by Simpson. The civil trial is to begin in April.

Testimony during the proceeding was described as detailed, the tone workmanlike. But tension

(Continued from Page 1) Assad, the source said, is ready now for an agreement that would include a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the dismantling of the communities there, the receipt of generous foreign aid, and the implementation of normalization in the distant future.

To reach the type of agreement being suggested by Israel, however, Assad would have to change his stand, the source added.

Security arrangements in any peace treaty with Syria, the source added, would have to achieve three goals: make a surprise attack impossible; reduce the possibility of a comprehensive attack by either side; and establish a method for preventing any localized inci-

dents from turning into a full-scale war.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, who concluded a two-day visit to Washington yesterday before flying to New York, told Israeli reporters Monday evening that Israel does not rule out the possibility of future American participation in early-warning stations on the Golan, but that such a step "would not be in place of our warning stations."

He also indicated Israel is weighing various security alternatives to ground-based stations. Israel and Syria will discuss the merits of both ground-based and aerial warning stations, Barak

said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher might participate briefly in this round of the Wye talks, a senior US official said. Christopher joined the parties for a dinner on the final night of the most recent round, before he visited the Middle East. He is expected to return to Damascus and Jerusalem early next month.

The US official said the upcoming six days of talks should be seen as a "continuation" of the previous round, which ended January 5.

"I see this as talks dealing with a range of issues - security, normalization, timetables. I think it's possible, with the teams that are there, to focus on all [the issues]," he said.

STAY AWAY

(Continued from Page 1) Peres told reporters outside the meeting that he upholds Israel's stand that the peace process would halt if the Palestinians do not rescind the clauses in their covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

Meanwhile, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated his opposition to the decision to admit PNC members, telling reporters: "It is the height of irresponsibility to invite these master killers to come here for an unlimited stay. What [Peres] should have done is seek an alternative site for the meeting, like Tunis, where they've

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The 277 pieces of garbage, retrieved from the sea by a team of scientists, had been dumped by ships sailing in the area.

Killing the sea the silent way

When the French do nuclear testing in the sea, everyone is aware of it and demonstrates against it," says marine biologist Dr. Bella Galil.

We are, she warns, "killing the sea the silent way" and we don't even know it.

Galil does research at the National Institute of Oceanography and Limnological Research, a non-profit government corporation established in 1967, with the aim of generating knowledge and technology for wise use of Israel's marine and freshwater resources.

In the past five years, she has led 12 expeditions in the eastern Mediterranean to find specimens of deep-sea fauna. In the spring of 1993, she joined a team of German, Italian and Egyptian scientists aboard the German research vessel Meteor, to trawl the deep waters of the Levant. On board, she studied creatures living 1,000 to 4,800 meters below the surface.

In addition the Meteor's nets hauled up garbage. Appalled, Dr. Galil collected, identified and sorted the litter, presenting the results of

A researcher warns that the Mediterranean's floor is in danger of becoming a garbage dump, Ava Carmel writes

her analysis, the first detailed survey of litter on the Mediterranean sea bed. Her report was published in the latest issue of Marine Pollution Bulletin. Previous surveys of litter in the Mediterranean, she notes, have studied only that on the beaches or the surface.

She concluded that the deep-sea trash was dumped from ships, because paint chips were found in most of the trawls. "Sailors are constantly scraping and repainting their ships, so the chips fall overboard and mix with the other garbage," she says.

Twelve of the 17 Mediterranean trawls contained litter, whereas in a similar trawl off the Chinese coast, 41% contained in-

ter. The 277 pieces of garbage were classified, with the most interesting items defying classification as anything but "miscellaneous," being a credit card and a US-made artillery shell casing. Discarded packaging which still had readable labels had come from Australia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Taiwan and the US.

Little is known about the extent and effect that garbage has on creatures at any depth greater than 100 m, Galil says.

"In shallow waters, the action of waves and sedimentation is very low and the garbage doesn't get buried quickly," she says. "At 1,500 m, pressure is 150 times what it is at sea level; there is

almost total darkness and very little nourishment filters down. If the sea bed is covered with plastic sheeting, food is no longer accessible to the animals living there.

"The wide use of plastics is only a generation old and a percentage of the sea bottom is already covered with it," Galil says. "With the amount of fishing, naval and pleasure vessels increasing rapidly, what will happen in another three generations? Sea life won't be able to survive."

"The Mediterranean Sea lies in one of the most densely populated and highly industrialized regions of the world," she writes in her article. "The pollution of the Mediterranean has been recognized internationally as a serious problem..."

"Though the disposal of all litter, except food waste, is prohibited in the Mediterranean," the study presents evidence that these regulations are ignored and that vessel-generated refuse is a major source of marine litter.

She ends her article with the warning that if laws are not more strictly enforced, the sea floor will turn into a garbage dump.

From 'blankie' to emotional secrets

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

My six-year-old son has an imaginary friend. He talks to him a lot and is very involved with him. My husband wants to know if this is something to worry about.

Alan Flashman, child and adult psychiatrist, replies:

You have raised three questions: imaginary friends; fathering; and worrying.

Having imaginary friends is a well-known and potentially delightful aspect of being five or six years old. It is an entirely normal phenomenon which generally is considered the penultimate step on the train that takes a child from his "blankie" to his own secret emotional life.

The infant's "blankie" is his first, very concrete, symbol. It has the feel and often the smell of mother, and allows the infant to retain a concrete reminder of mother's presence - with which he can do what he wants - when he is apart from her.

The next step is the teddy bear, which seems to have more of a symbolic imaginary personality. The three-year-old imbues his teddy with a kind of special presence, partly like himself and partly like his parents.

The next step is more imaginary than concrete. The imaginary friend is invisible, but lives a concrete life. The child talks to him and may even set a place for him at the table. And, of course, he can do what he pleases with this friend.

This friend is a pretty flexible fellow. At times he seems to represent the child, at other times the parents, or a part of the child which he feels guilty or ashamed of or even wishes-for ideal self. On the whole, the imaginary friend is more naughty and deserves more punishments than the child himself.

Enjoy this "station" while you



can. The train is about to vanish into the invisible reaches of your child's secret emotional life. There it will stop at its last station, the emotional images of himself and those he encounters about which you will only be able to guess.

Fathers, at times, seem a bit hesitant to fully engage their children's emotional life. Men, who may have some trouble recalling what they were like as young children, need a gentle hand. It could involve some memory-rebuilding and perhaps consulting with your husband's parents. It could even involve reading Selma Fraiberg's classic, *The Magic Years*, together.

Could it be that your husband is expressing a desire to become more deeply involved in emotional parenting as his son gets older and more accessible verbally? If you offer him this meaning of his concern, he may be very grateful.

Finally, neither of you has any reason to worry about this if your

child demonstrates other signs of mental health. These would include: a warm relationship with parents that has room for the expression of anger; the ability to and interest in making friends; some interest in and the capacity to play and learn; and a general forward direction in development.

If the imaginary friend is expressing some other problem your child is experiencing, this will not be the only sign of it. In addition, an imaginary friend which is an expression of trouble will seem to dominate the child and won't be very much fun.

If your worries continue to plague you, try talking it over with your own parents, joining a parent support (not training) group, or consulting a pediatrician, public-health nurse or mental-health expert.

If you have a question about parenting, write to: "Parenting," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Eve was not the one and only

Bad news for Eve: a new report disputes the theory that one genetic mother of us all lived 200,000 years ago in Africa, arguing that there had to be some 100,000 "Eves" existing much earlier in time.

The report in a recent edition of the journal *Science* - that our earliest genetic forbears existed perhaps 60 million years ago - long before human beings walked the earth - contradicts the "mitochondrial Eve" theory advanced eight years ago.

Scientists at the University of California at Berkeley said then that all people descended from one African woman, basing their finding on tracking of mutations in an original molecule of DNA, the genetic blueprint contained in every living thing.

In every DNA molecule, there are some six billion bits of information. Most of these bits are in the molecule's heart, or nucleus, but about 15,000 of them are outside the nucleus in an area called the mitochondrion. This mitochondrial DNA is passed only from mothers to children, and the Berkeley team used this to find the woman they say gave all current humans this part of her DNA, which mutated down through the ages.

They theorized that she lived 100,000 to 200,000 years ago and while she was not the only woman to have children then, her genes were the only ones that endured to the present day.

But Francisco Ayala, a professor of biological sciences at the University of California at Irvine, used mathematical models to argue that this could not have happened.

"I find the ancestral molecule for an important piece of DNA that deals with the immune system," he said in a telephone interview. "That molecule existed 60 million years ago, about when the dinosaurs became extinct, before the origination of modern monkeys, let alone humans."

Ayala, the author of the study being published in *Science*, calculated that for all the variants of this immune system gene to have survived until now would have required a population of at least 100,000.

Some scientists say the one true Eve was possible because at times of great anatomical change there is a population bottleneck - fewer people. But Ayala said that through all the big anatomical changes, from the time of the earliest monkeys until now, "there were no population bottlenecks at any time of our ancestral species."

The theory of mitochondrial Eve has sometimes been used to argue that the differentiation between races was rather recent in evolutionary terms, but Ayala disputed this notion, saying this differentiation was more likely to have occurred around 1.8 million years ago when early humans began leaving Africa for Europe and Asia.

And what about Adam? Scientists reported in the British scientific journal *Nature* last month that "Y-chromosome Adam" probably lived 188,000 years ago. The Y-chromosome is passed only from fathers to children, just as mitochondrial DNA is passed only from mothers. (Reuter)

Over-50s aren't safe from AIDS

Marion Murray is a grandmother with the AIDS virus. At times, even she has troubling believing that fact.

"My kids know about it now, but I didn't tell them until last year," says Murray, 59, a white-haired woman with a gentle smile, who caught AIDS in 1993.

"It never crossed my mind that I could get it." But experts say Murray's experience mirrors many of the health and personal problems faced by a growing number of Americans over 50 with the deadly virus. One recent study estimated that more than 25,000 older people have tested HIV-positive - representing about 11 percent of all those in the US affected with the AIDS virus.

With better treatment methods and some people continuing to live for more than a decade after being infected, experts predict that the number of geriatric AIDS cases will increase over the next several years.

"Older folks don't see themselves at risk for the disease," says Dr. Mitchell Feldman, an AIDS specialist at the University of California, San Francisco.

Unlike younger people, he says, older people with the deadly virus are far less likely to have used safe-sex methods, like wearing condoms. They also often battle the virus onslaught with far weaker immune systems. In addition many doctors fail to spot the early signs of AIDS, chalking up fatigue, pneumonia and other symptoms to old age or other illnesses.

"Sometimes the diagnosis of AIDS isn't picked up right away," says Dr. Robert Butler, who treats geriatric AIDS patients at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. "There's usually a confusion of symptoms which makes things more difficult to treat."

Jeffrey Reynolds, spokesman for the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, a New York advocacy group, says, "A higher percentage of our new clients are [adult] women. They don't watch MTV and get safe-sex messages all the time." Many women with HIV are widows who contracted the virus from their husbands or men in their lives.

"It's really quite incredible," Carol Garrett, a psychiatric social worker, said about the caseload of female geriatric AIDS cases at North Shore University Hospital on Long Island. At the facility, 21 women over the age of 60 are being

treated for AIDS. "Most of their husbands were bisexual or had a secret homosexual affair and infected their wives. For these women, you can't tell anyone what your husband died of and what you're suffering from. It's a double secret with a great deal of shame and denial." That was Murray's dilemma. She had a long-running affair with "a boyfriend young enough to be my son." She says she never thought of using safe-sex precautions.

When they broke up, Murray collected her boyfriend's belongings and "found in his letters that he had full-blown AIDS." In 1993, a doctor confirmed that she had gotten the virus. "I just didn't believe it," said Murray, who insisted on being retested at several other clinics.

Now Murray goes every three weeks to a hospital clinic near her home in New York City to check on her T-cell count, one measure of the health of her immune system, and to see whether any symptoms have developed. Murray also attends an AIDS support group that helps her deal with the emotional aspects of being HIV-positive.

"The isolation of older people with AIDS is a big problem," says Kathleen Nokes, a teaching nurse at Hunter College in New York City and co-chairwoman of its AIDS and Aging Task Force. "An older woman who is infected with the virus may not tell her children." Experts say older people with the virus are often misdiagnosed by general practitioners, who may misperceive such symptoms as AIDS-related dementia as the first signs of Alzheimer's disease.

Experts say the cause of AIDS infection among the elderly has changed dramatically during the past decade. During the 1980s, most older people with AIDS had contracted the disease as a result of blood transfusions from unprotected supplies. Now, the vast majority of elderly cases come from sexual activity among heterosexuals.

"I think you'll see more AIDS cases over 50 because of the new treatments, with a significant number living close to 20 years with the HIV infection," says Dr. William Adler, chief of the immunological section for the National Institutes of Health. Adler said the biggest problem is getting older people to take safe-sex warnings seriously. "There seems to be a denial," he said, "while the younger gen-

eration is where the education has worked."

Some who have lived for a long time with HIV, like David Singh, a retired New York City teacher, say good nutrition, exercise and an upbeat attitude have prolonged their lives. Singh, 59, tested positive in December 1987, and believes that he contracted the virus in the early 1980s.

Singh said an AIDS support group called Senior Action in a Gay Environment has also helped his frame of mind. "I don't think pessimistically and I don't accept death as the ultimate goal," he says.

Greg Anderson, a supervisor at

the support group, says many older people with AIDS have difficulty talking about their disease.

His group has received financial support from the New York state Department of Social Services. But Anderson and other experts worry that future budget cutbacks could sharply reduce or eliminate such services as nursing care and other expensive medical care.

On a daily basis, Anderson suggests to counselors that they respect the religious and cultural belief of older patients who may believe they can be cured by prayer or hands-on healing. (Newsday)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1996

Court extends remand of stock fraud suspects

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday extended the remand for three days of two J.M. Eini Metal Industries senior managers and three brokers from brokerage Estrategia suspected of stock manipulation.

The six were arrested by Securities Authority investigators on Monday night on suspicion of stock manipulation offenses.

Brothers Menahem and Ya'acov Eini are suspected of securities fraud and of presenting misleading information in their June share issue prospectus, allegedly to defraud the public.

The Estrategia brokers - Amnon Shani, Benny Sidon and Eli Nafat - are suspected of securities fraud.

A bank manager is also suspected of fraud by approving loans to Eini managers in order to purchase shares and allowing private accounts to be overdrawn by as much as NIS 1.85 million.

Investigators had asked the court to extend the Eini brothers' remand by seven days, and the detention of Shani, Sidon and Nafat by 10 days.

Another broker, Eli Levy, was reportedly released on bail on Monday after questioning.

According to investigators, the price of JM Eini shares traded on the TASE rose 640% over the

past six months, and volume of trade also increased dramatically.

Allegedly, Estrategia and the Eini brothers coordinated their activities, artificially increasing trade volume and share prices.

Globes said yesterday this was done by selling and buying on the same day or limiting buy orders at a particularly high share price.

The NIS 2.7m. was allegedly deposited in bank accounts in the names of other Eini family relatives. The Eini brothers allegedly earned NIS 2.7m. in profits between June 1995 and September 1996.

The TASE announced it has requested that JM Eini make "clarifications pertaining to newspaper reports," but had as yet received no reply.

JM Eini shares will no longer trade "until clarifications are received," the TASE said.

Reports that the Securities Authority had arrested H. Electronics majority shareholder Vitaly Krispi are false, the company told the TASE.

"Mr. Krispi was not arrested, not yesterday or at any other time," H. Electronics said.

"Moreover, Mr. Vitaly Krispi was not summoned to interrogation or any questioning, was not questioned under caution and not as a witness."

Doron Levy to suggest cut in income taxes

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

INCOME Tax Commissioner Doron Levy said yesterday he will recommend a decrease in income taxes for 1996.

"I intend to recommend to the finance minister that the tax burden be reduced this year," Levy said at a press conference regarding his offices' activities in 1995 and plans for the next fiscal year.

Levy said income taxes for individuals could be reduced following a gradual tax-cutting program similar to the one for companies, which is already being implemented. Since 1992, income taxes for companies have been cut from 40 percent to 36%.

Concerning tax evasion, Levy said the number of criminal in-

vestigations increased 95% from 824 in 1994 to 1,603 last year. However, the number of guilty verdicts rose by under 4%, from 174 to 181 in the same period.

"We can [use all of our resources] to do everything we can, but the problem lies with the courts," Levy said. "They don't find these people guilty."

More than 12,000 were suspected of tax evasion out of the some 100,000 taxpayers inspected last year.

The courts sentenced evaders to a total of 556 months of jail time last year, a decrease of 14% from 1994.

The average fine was nearly NIS 40,000, an increase of 40%. In 1995, the government collected NIS 18 billion in fines and penalties. Levy said he could not estimate how much tax evaders cost the government.

Overall, income tax revenues are expected to bring in NIS 54.5b. this year, after totaling NIS 50.3b. in 1995.

Levy added that under new legislation, self-employed people are eligible to participate in a professional training savings plan (*keren hishtalmut*) and women will be entitled to an additional credit point for every child, rather than every other one, as was previously legislated.

Maritime Bank shares fall 7.7% after rumors of Geva demotion

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MARITIME Bank shares fell 7.7 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday following rumors that general manager Amir Geva will be forced to step down due to a board decision to diversify the bank's activities away from the capital market.

David Levinson - general manager of Granit Hacamel Property a subsidiary of Granit Hacamel - will most probably take over from Geva.

Before joining Granite a year ago, Levinson was in charge of Bank Hapoalim's overseas branches and responsible for its relationship with foreign institutions and private investors.

The bank's owners, a consortium headed by Michael Steinhardt and Shimon Topper, refused to comment but are expected to announce the appoint-

ment in a few days.

Maritime Bank's board of directors decided to change the bank's field of speciality from the capital market several months ago, following the bank's poor performance in 1995. The bank plans to increase its activities in the commercial banking field.

The bank completed the first nine months of the year with a drop in net profit to NIS 1.95 million from NIS 13.16m. in the same period in 1994.

The drop in earnings was mainly due to lower profits from capital market activities, which significantly reduced operating earnings.

Geva's resignation is primarily due to the fact that he is considered more of a specialist in the capital market field and less in other banking fields.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shiloah signs cooperation agreement with US Healthcare: Shiloah, a member of the Harel Hamishmar group, has signed a cooperation agreement with US Healthcare, one of the leading health insurance and managed health care services in the US. According to the agreement, Shiloah insurance holders will be entitled to US Healthcare's medical services as part of their overseas medical insurance policies, as well as health policies - including surgery. The policy holders can also go to US Healthcare for second opinions.

The Philadelphia-based company provides health insurance to more than 2.5 million employees, in addition to its activities in the managed health care field and independent clients legal claims.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Vietnamese PM accepts Shohat's invitation to visit here: Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has accepted Finance Minister Avraham Shohat invitation to visit Israel. Shohat is scheduled to sign a series of bilateral agreements with his Vietnamese hosts today before proceeding to India, where he will sign an agreement to avoid double taxation. Shohat signed a similar document with his Thai colleague earlier this week.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Wardinnon group reports 67% rise in sales: The Wardinnon group, which is engaged in textiles, reported sales of \$47 million last year, a 67% increase from the corresponding period in 1994. Export sales increased 67% to \$38m.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Mutual fund assets fall off dramatically: The mutual fund industry's assets have been more than cut in half over the last two years as a result of the public's lack of confidence in mutual fund managers and the plunge in share prices, Meitav reported yesterday. According to Meitav, the mutual fund consultancy company, the sector's total assets have decreased to NIS 16.1b. last year from NIS 38.3b. at the start of 1994. Meitav said the mutual fund market shrank 58% in nominal terms and 68% in real terms.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Bank Discount Mortgage Bank announced it is expanding its circle of customers that are entitled to a mortgage without having to provide guarantors. In addition, the bank is offering supplementary loans at attractive rates to people eligible for government mortgage assistance.

Galit Lipkis Beck

United Mizrahi Bank is offering a fixed interest of 14.25% on shekel deposits for a 12-month period. The bank's management said these are the best conditions prevailing on the market. The interest will be paid on deposits of more than NIS 100,000.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Apple, Sun Microsystems resume talks

CUPERTINO, Calif. (Reuters) - Apple Computer Inc. and Sun Microsystems Inc. have resumed merger talks and a deal between the two companies is "imminent," according to a published report yesterday.

The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the negotiations, said the deal could be in the form of a \$4 billion stock swap that values Apple at about \$33 a share.

Apple officials, attending the company's annual meeting here, declined to comment on the report.

"Our longstanding policy is not to comment on things like this," said Betty Taylor, a spokeswoman for the computer company. "Our board is certainly committed to increasing the inherent value to our shareholders, but if we had any announcements we would certainly make them."

Sun officials were not available to comment. Apple, a maker of personal computers and software, and workstation maker Sun Microsystems had been in merger talks since September, but talks collapsed two weeks ago.

A merger with Sun would give Apple greater access to corporations that rely on Sun for their equipment while providing Sun with a larger presence in the desktop computing segment of the market.

It would also help shore up Apple's financial position, which has deteriorated in recent months.

Apple posted a \$69 million loss for the first quarter ended December 1995 and expects to lose money again in the second quarter.

It currently has less than 10 percent of the personal computer market and finished third in 1995 shipments.

Russian Communist Party head to attend top business meeting

Peres, Arafat to be among 250 other leaders at conference

GENEVA (Reuters) - Russia's Communist Party chief Gennady Zyuganov, likely to bid for the presidency this year, will attend a gathering of world business and political leaders in Switzerland next month, organizers said yesterday.

Klaus Schwab, founder-president of the World Economic Forum, told a news conference Zyuganov was among some 250 figures who had accepted invitations to the Geneva-based body's annual meeting in the mountain resort of Davos from February 1-6.

Also at the meeting, an important event on the global business calendar, will be Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and European Commission President Jacques Santer and President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico.

The Davos Forum will also stage special sessions on the Balkans following the Bosnian peace accord, attended by presidents and prime ministers from the region, and on Northern Ireland with representatives of all main sides in the problem.

Schwab, a German economics professor who set up the Forum in 1971, said this year's main theme was "sustaining globaliza-

tion" - the growing integration of the world economy - in the face of mounting concern over its social effects.

Labor leaders from Europe and North America would be present to discuss with top businessmen and bankers the impact the process has on employment. Many say it is responsible for the loss of jobs to developing countries.

Zyuganov, whose party emerged from disarray following the collapse of Soviet communism in 1991 to come top of the poll in last month's parliamentary elections, will be a first-time visitor at Davos.

He has assured Western businessmen in Moscow that his is a new-style communism that would maintain economic reform and cooperation with the outside world if it won full power, and is likely to deliver a similar message in Davos.

Schwab said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, a guest at two past Forum meetings, was unable to attend this year. Former economic reform chief Anatoly Chubais, sacked last week by President Boris Yeltsin, would also not come this time.

The Davos gathering attracts

chief executives of global firms who say they appreciate the opportunity it provides to exchange ideas with government leaders and rising political stars from around the world.

It is also attended by senior figures in the international financial community, including World Bank president James Wolfensohn, German Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer and other central and private bank chiefs.

The US, which has rarely been represented at a high level at Davos, is sending Laura Tyson, senior economic adviser to President Bill Clinton, and Democratic senator Bill Bradley will be a co-chairman of the week-long meeting.

China, which has sent top government leaders in the past including Prime Minister Li Peng, will be represented this year by a group of high-level businessmen, Schwab said. For the first time secretive North Korea is sending a senior official.

Other world figures attending will include Argentine president Carlos Menem, Peru's President Alberto Fujimori, Poland's President Alexander Kwasniewski, Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan president Benazir Bhutto.



Jacques de la Rostere, president of the European Reconstruction Bank (right), talks yesterday with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during a meeting with heads of major companies who invested in Russia. Chernomyrdin cautiously backed a presidential decision to oust Russia's chief economic reformer Anatoly Chubais by saying that reforms would go on regardless of who was in the cabinet.

(Reuters)

Ormat to build power station in New Zealand

ORMAT Industries has announced it will build a \$32 million geothermal power station with Power New Zealand. Ormat's share will be \$25m.

Power New Zealand is the second largest electric provider

RACHEL NEIMAN

there. The station will be situated on an active geothermal site in New Zealand's Rotokawa region. Using Ormat's new geothermal combined cycle technology, tur-

bines driven on underground geothermal steam will be used with Ormat closed cycle turbines.

The Rotokawa plant is Ormat's fourth project there. A \$60m. order was received recently to build a 55-megawatt plant.

American Express files complaint with EU about Visa's 'anti-competitive behavior'

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - US charge-card giant American Express said yesterday it had filed a complaint with the European Commission charging Visa International with anti-competitive behavior in the European card industry.

In a statement, American Express said Visa was considering putting a new clause in its contracts with banks that would limit competition by restricting member banks' ability to offer more than one kind of card.

"American Express today filed a complaint charging that Visa International is engaged in anti-competitive activities in violation of the (EU law)... by advocating that banks issuing Visa cards be prohibited from also issuing American Express cards," it said. Visa International said it was

"surprised" by the accusation, adding it was not breaking any rules.

"Visa would not implement a change in its rules that would contravene EU law," Visa said in a statement.

It added that it was studying ways to allow banks to be competitive by offering consumers whatever payment cards they wanted whilst also ensuring that competitors did not take advantage of Visa's existing payment card system.

A European Commission spokesman said the commission would look into the complaint, as it did with all such charges but declined to say any more.

In its complaint, American Express said Visa International was breaking European Union rules prohibiting action which restricts

or distorts competition, or abuse of a dominant position in the 15-nation bloc.

It said the proposed clause would force banks to stop offering their customers a choice of carrying an American Express card, a Visa card, or both.

"Visa is attempting to eliminate competition in the card marketplace and limit consumer choice throughout Europe. If allowed to go unchecked there will be nothing to prevent... giving Visa further control over distribution in the European card system," the statement said.

Jürgen Ammüller, president of American Express Europe, noted that the clause, or bylaw, had not yet been put in place by Visa, which he said was the dominant player in the fast-growing European market.

"[It] has not been decided, but the Visa association has taken the initiative to introduce it and we want to prevent that situation," he told Reuters.

He said American Express had partner banks in Europe with which it had contracts and other banks with which it was negotiating contracts "and we want to make sure there is a freedom in the market place and those banks can issue American Express cards besides the Visa franchise".

He said the proposed Visa clause would force banks to issue Visa cards only, limiting competition and consumer choice.

"What we hope is that the Commission will confirm to the market players that there is free competition and therefore a free offer of product ranges," he added.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (24.1.96)				
Currency (deposit base)	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825
U.S. dollar (\$1,000,000)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825
U.S. dollar (\$2,000,000)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825
U.S. dollar (\$5,000,000)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825
U.S. dollar (\$10,000,000)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825
Yen (10 million yen)	4.825	4.825	4.825	4.825

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.1.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Bank
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.0990	3.5922	3.04	3.20	3.5281
German mark	2.1039	2.1379	2.05	2.17	2.1223
French franc	4.8949	4.7891	4.80	4.84	4.7378
Japanese yen (100)	0.1140	0.0940	0.80	0.94	0.8198
Dutch guilder	1.2791	1.5006	1.84	1.94	1.8554
Swiss franc	2.5184	2.5697	2.57	2.70	2.6392
Swedish krona	0.4284	0.4287	0.44	0.47	0.4657
Marken (1000)	0.4738	0.4678	0.47	0.50	0.4940
Denish krona	0.5438	0.5204	0.53	0.57	0.5485
Finland mark	0.8888	0.8888	0.87	0.91	0.8915
Canadian dollar	2.2800	2.2800	2.25	2.33	2.2872
Australian dollar	2.2724	2.3031	2.25	2.33	2.2872
S. African rand	0.8500	0.8988	0.77	0.87	0.8276
Belgian franc (10)	1.0322	1.0322	1.00	1.06	1.0322
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9924	3.0407	2.94	3.09	3.0188
Italian lire (1000)	1.9438	1.9792	1.91	2.01	1.9501
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.26	4.56	4.3782
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.88	0.96	0.9228
Irish punt	3.6711	3.9338	3.62	3.82	3.6925
Spanish peseta (100)	4.8250	4.9415	4.77	5.02	4.9141
—	2.2940	2.5343	2.45	2.57	2.5167

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUM

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مركز التمويل

Rubin outlasts Sanchez Vicario in marathon quarter-final match

MELBOURNE (AP) - At 4-5 in the third set, Chanda Rubin let two match points slip away. About 1 1/2 hours later, she was in the tennis record books again with another marathon victory.

The 19-year-old American also was in her first Grand Slam semi-final thanks to the 6-4, 2-6, 16-14 triumph yesterday over third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, her doubles partner.

Rubin had two more match points at 13-14 in the 3-hour, 33-minute match. She lost the second of those on a controversial line call. Finally, she cashed in on her sixth at 14-15 with a stretched forehand cross-court volley.

"She didn't give it to me and I wasn't going to give it to her," said the No. 13 seed.

Many in the audience of 15,000 felt they still hadn't had enough tennis. They stalked off in anger when a men's quarter-final between No. 2 Andre Agassi and No. 8 Jim Courier was postponed until today.

That match couldn't start until 10:57 p.m. and then was stopped about a half-hour later for rain, with Agassi serving at 4-5 in the first set. The rain stopped, the roof was closed and the courts were dried, but finally officials and players decided on a postponement.

The rescheduling means that both men's semifinals will be played on Friday. The women's semifinals are to be played tomorrow.

But the crowd had seen a match that set Australian Open women's records for time, number of games (48) and number of games in one set (30). The old marks of 45 total games and 24 in one set both were set in 1988, but in different matches.

Rubin already was in the books for most games in a Grand Slam women's singles match - 58 - and longest women's final set at Wimbledon - 2 hours, 4 minutes and 32 games. In that 3-hour, 45-minute match last year, she beat Patricia Hy-Boulais 7-6, 6-7, 17-15.



BATTLE WEARY - Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (l) congratulates Chanda Rubin of the US after Rubin's epic upset win in their match at the Australian Open yesterday.

Tuesday's final set was even longer - 2 hours, 22 minutes.

Rubin also was known for rebounding from a 0-5, 0-40 final set deficit to beat Jana Novotna in the third round of last year's French Open.

The Wimbledon experience helped last night, Rubin said - "I was thinking I can hang with her for however long."

But, she acknowledged, there also were many times she thought she might lose. After there was no call on a Sanchez Vicario volley that she thought was out on her fourth match point, at 13-14, 30-40, "I was thinking, God, I can't win this, it's going to go on all night."

Rubin argued the ruling, and many in the audience of 15,000 booed it, but the line judge's view apparently was blocked by Rubin's feet.

Rubin then missed the next

two points, held service and finally broke Sanchez Vicario after 13 straight service keeps by the two women.

Rubin played an aggressive game throughout. She had twice as many winners as Sanchez Vicario - 68 to 34 - and twice as many unforced errors - 96 to 48.

"I kept trying to go for it, regardless of what was going to happen," she said.

The intensity already was high in the first set. After she lost her serve at 2-1 in the first set, Sanchez Vicario received a warning for slamming the ball into the wall behind Rubin's court.

Sanchez Vicario said, "After playing so well, both of us, sometimes it is hard that one has to lose. ... I played a very good match and I gave everything."

Asked whether Rubin could now beat Seles, she said, "I think she can. She is definitely the play-

er who has improved the most."

Seles had a much easier path into the semifinals, winning 6-1, 6-2 against No. 7 Iva Majoli of Croatia.

Yesterday's victory stretched her unbeaten streak in Australian Opens to 26 matches. So far this time, she has dropped just 17 games in 10 sets.

While Seles' average now is fewer than two games lost per set, men's No. 5 Michael Chang has averaged fewer than three - 37 in 15 sets.

He marched into the semifinals with a 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, the man who ousted No. 3 Thomas Muster of Austria.

Tillstrom said Chang, whose only Grand Slam victory so far has come in the 1989 French Open, is playing well enough to win this time.

Coach Bachar quits after Mac. Jaffa fails in tourney

MACCABI Jaffa coach Nissim Bachar yesterday announced his resignation after his charges became the fifth National League club to be ousted in the eighth round of the State Cup.

Jaffa went down 1-0 at home to Second Division Hapoel Ramat Gan in one of three fixtures played yesterday after they were postponed from Friday due to poor weather.

In the other two, National League teams prevailed over their Second Division rivals: Zefirim Holon beat Shimshon Tel Aviv 3-0 and Betar Tel Aviv beat Maccabi Netanya 2-1.

Bachar's decision to quit Jaffa makes him the seventh National League coach to leave his post this season, and comes just two

days after the dismissal of Kfar Sava's Eli Yami, who is disputing his firing.

Bachar said he was deeply disappointed by Jaffa's lackluster performance in the loss to Ramat Gan, and he could see no reason to continue working when all the hard effort put in at the club during the two-week mid-season break resulted in such a poor showing when it really counted.

Ramat Gan's lone goal came from a penalty taken by Yoval Naim in the ninth minute after Lev Metveyev was fouled by a Jaffa defender.

Holon needed extra time to settle its clash with Shimshon after a goalless, aimless 90 minutes.

Shai Holtzman, Avi Pass and Oren Nissim scored for Holon, which was at a one-man advantage for the extra 30 minutes after Shimshon's Yaniv Ofri was sent off for punching Holon's Ronen Feigenbaum.

Niv Tal gave Hapoel Kfar Sham hope of yet another upset by a lower-division side when he scored for the hosts at the Hativva Quarter ground.

But second half strikes by Moshe Eisenberg from a penalty and Doron Anar assured Betar Tel Aviv of reaching the last-16 stage of the competition.

ORI LEWIS

Israel plays Greece in soccer friendly

THE national soccer team steps up its preparations for World Cup qualifying competition with a friendly international against host Greece this afternoon.

Coach Shlomo Scharf began his third term in charge of the team last week and called up most of the same squad for the campaign ahead.

Yitzhak Shum, his assistant and head coach of the under-21 side, however, has already got off on the wrong foot, as his charges lost 4-0 to Greece yesterday.

According to reports, only the first-half goalkeeping heroics of Nir Davidovich in goal prevented an even greater rout.

Eran Seizinger replaced Davidovich in the second half, and with a poor defensive line the Israelis were unable to keep up with their Greek counterparts.

The national team will be at almost full strength for this afternoon's clash, although Konny Rosenthal has not been called in

for the friendly.

Scharf has said he will experiment with Ronen Harazi as a lone striker.

Israel's 11 to start the match are: Rafi Cohen, Avishai Janno, Nir Klingner, Amir Shelah, Moshe Glaz, Alan Hazan, Tal Banin, Reuven Atar, Eyal Berkowitz, Haim Revivo, and Ronnan Harazi.

The game will be televised live on Channel 1, and there will also be live commentary on Radio 2.

ORI LEWIS

SCOREBOARD

European Cup final post: Turgay 81, Real Madrid 67

MONDAY'S NBA RESULTS: Miami 96, San Antonio 80; Atlanta 105, Houston 96; Vancouver 106, Milwaukee 92

MONDAY'S NHL RESULTS: N.Y. Rangers 3, Los Angeles 1; Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 1; Chicago 7, Ottawa 3; Pittsburgh 7, Boston 6; Florida 1, Philadelphia 1 (tie); Colorado 4, N.Y. Islanders 3; Dallas 6, Vancouver 4

SPORTS BRIEFS

City signs Frontzeck from Germany
Premier League club Manchester City yesterday signed international defender Michael Frontzeck from Borussia Moenchengladbach for £350,000. *Reuter*

Mets acquire Gilkey from Cardinals
The St. Louis Cardinals, faced with a surplus of outfielders, traded Bernard Gilkey to the New York Mets on Monday for three minor leaguers.

In other baseball news yesterday, the Colorado Rockies resigned Andres Galarraga to a \$4.5 million contract. *AP*

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Massachusetts still tops

NEW YORK (AP) - Massachusetts, the only unbeaten Division I team, remained No. 1 in the US college basketball poll Monday, but the Minutemen's grip on the top spot slipped a bit.

Last week, Massachusetts (16-0) was picked first on all but two of the ballots from a nationwide media panel. This week, with two more voters participating, the Minutemen received 57 of 66 first-place votes and 1,641 points, 52 more than Kentucky, which was No. 1 on eight ballots.

The Wildcats (15-1), who didn't have a first-place vote last week, averaged 126 points in wins over LSU and Texas Christian.

What makes the change in first-place votes hard to understand is that Massachusetts beat Rhode Island and Duquesne without junior center Marcus Camby, who has missed three games since collapsing before a game on January 14. He is expected to return Tuesday night against Pittsburgh.

Besides Massachusetts and Kentucky, only No. 7 Villanova and No. 14 Penn State held their spots from the previous poll after a week in which 13 ranked teams lost a total of 14 games.

Kansas and Connecticut, which

received the other first-place vote, each moved up one spot to third and fourth, while Cincinnati, which lost its first game of the season on Sunday to Alabama-Birmingham, dropped two spots to fifth.

Georgetown moved up two spots to sixth, and was followed in the Top Ten by Villanova, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest and Utah.

In addition to Cincinnati, Wake Forest, Villanova, Memphis and North Carolina lost last week as Top 10 teams.

North Carolina dropped one spot to lead the Second Ten, and was followed by Memphis, Arizona, Penn State, UCLA, Michigan, Syracuse, Clemson, Purdue and Boston College.

The last five ranked teams were Auburn, Iowa, Texas Tech, Marquette and California.

Syracuse (13-4), which dropped from 12th to 17th, was the only ranked team to lose two games last week. The Orange-men dropped road games to West Virginia and Connecticut.

Marquette (12-3), which beat Memphis on Saturday, and California (10-4), which has lost to only one unranked team this season, were the newcomers to the rankings replacing Mississippi State and Georgia.

Cantona scores goal in Manchester United win

LONDON (AP) - Frenchman Eric Cantona struck after just eight minutes Monday night, giving Manchester United the only goal it needed to beat West Ham 1-0 and climb back to within nine points of first-place Newcastle in the English Premier League.

Cantona's sixth goal of the season came when Ryan Giggs raced down the wing and shot the ball across the goalmouth. Cantona was there to turn the ball back at an acute angle.

Premier League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	23	17	3	3	45	19	54
Man Utd	24	18	6	6	47	27	45
Liverpool	23	12	6	5	46	21	42
Tottenham	24	11	8	5	33	24	41
Leeds	24	11	8	5	29	18	39
Sheff. Wed.	24	11	8	5	37	28	39
Birmingham	24	10	7	7	32	24	37
Nottingham	24	10	7	7	38	32	37
Sheff. Utd	24	10	6	8	25	28	36
Chelsea	24	9	9	6	26	25	36
Leeds	23	10	5	9	30	22	35
Arsenal	24	9	8	6	33	28	33
Sheff. Wed.	24	8	9	7	29	28	33
Blackburn	24	8	8	8	28	28	32
West Ham	23	8	10	6	22	23	32
Coventry	23	4	8	11	28	45	20
Manchester City	24	5	13	13	23	33	20
QPR	24	5	13	16	18	38	18
Bolton	24	3	4	17	28	49	13

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Joe Montana

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The name of the first Super Bowl was the AFL-NFL World Championship Game.



Stiff security adds to tension at Amir hearing

THE Tel Aviv courts had never witnessed such stiff security measures as those at Yigal Amir's plea hearing yesterday morning.

Before the Tel Aviv District Court session, which started at around 8:30, only Amir's family, journalists, and court employees were permitted to enter the courtroom - and only after three stringent searches.

The Justice Ministry's security guards, along with hundreds of policemen and border policemen, packed the building, and others were posted on the rooftops.

On the sixth floor, where Amir's trial was held, journalists from all over the world packed the courtroom. They had to undergo a thorough search and pass through metal detectors. Even small penknives were confiscated.

Onlookers were not permitted to enter the courtroom, and instead peered over police barriers.

Yigal Amir's mother did not come to the session yesterday. His distraught-looking father, Shlomo, his sister, Hadas, and aunt, Mazal, were the only relatives present.

Hadas Amir was removed

RAINE MARCUS

from the courtroom by police after she approached her brother and started talking to him.

After the hearing started, she was allowed back in, but police kept a constant eye on her.

Eitan Haber, the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's bureau chief, did turn up. At a previous court hearing he had called the Amir family "monsters" and swore to pursue them for the rest of their lives. Yesterday, however, he was quiet and seemed calm.

As at past hearings, Amir was heavily guarded by policemen and border policemen. But if previously he had smiled, laughed, blew kisses, and waved to his family, his solitary confinement appeared to be taking its toll. He looked drawn and exhausted, and in a serious frame of mind when he talked to Judge Edmond Levy.

But an eerie, broad smile appeared on his face every now and then, especially after he stated, with complete self-confidence, that he did not regret his action.

His smiles and silent laughter

sent shudders through the journalists, policemen, and others present. "Is he crazy?" some people asked.

Although the defense would apparently like to present a temporary insanity plea, it seems clear that Amir, as witnessed during many previous hearings and the reenactment of the assassination, is clear-headed, cool and articulate.

He appears to understand everything going on around him and the meaning of his actions on the night of November 4.

Meanwhile, Herzliya police yesterday arrested a 29-year-old Kach member, who was carrying two pistols, as he left the Amir family home. The man, a resident of Kfar Sava, went to a WIZO kindergarten in the area and asked to use a phone book to look for the Amir family's address. When he left, WIZO employees alerted police, who caught him as he was leaving the house.

Under questioning, he told police he had visited the family to "suggest a line of defense." Only one of his pistols was licensed.



Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal examines one of the weapons confiscated during recent anti-terror raids by Judea and Samaria District police, on a visit yesterday to Ma'aleh Efrayim's new police station. (Zevah VeZalmota)

WEATHER

6:00-8:00
Tel Aviv 9-15
Jerusalem 8-10
Beersheba 7-15
Dead Sea 8-15
Tiberias 7-15
Afula 6-15
Samarita 3-10
Eilat 8-15

Forecast: Rain will stop by noon. Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Alexander	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Bahia	22-28	W 10-15	partly
Buenos Aires	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Caracas	22-28	W 10-15	partly
Chicago	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Frankfurt	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Hong Kong	22-28	W 10-15	partly
London	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Los Angeles	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Madrid	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Moscow	12-18	W 10-15	partly
New York	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Paris	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Rome	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Sydney	22-28	W 10-15	partly
Tokyo	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Vienna	12-18	W 10-15	partly
Zurich	12-18	W 10-15	partly

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 9, 15, 28, 35, 44, 46 and the additional number was 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, queen of hearts, king of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Amir trial: 'What is going on here?'

EVEN Judge Edmond Levy, after years of presiding over murder trials, had difficulty in accepting the seeming inefficiency and lack of coordination between Yigal Amir's two lawyers yesterday.

During the four-hour plea hearing the judge's patience wore thin, and he found himself having to intervene and explain the meaning of the charges to Amir.

"We are astonished that the lawyers have not coordinated and are even more astonished that they came today without looking over material which must have been in their possession for some time," said the judge.

Levy succinctly summed up the situation with the question, "Good God, what is going on here?"

Levy was referring to lawyers Mordechai Offri - who yesterday announced he wants to withdraw "because of a conflict of inter-

NOTEBOOK

RAINE MARCUS

ests" - and Jonathan Ray Goldberg - who twice unsuccessfully tried to postpone yesterday's plea hearing.

Goldberg, acting alone, asked the Tel Aviv District Court and then the High Court of Justice to delay the hearing, on the grounds that the findings of the Shamgar Commission, not yet published, will have a direct bearing on the defense.

He also claimed he had not received all prosecution evidence to prepare the defense.

His client, he stressed, gave different versions of events "every other day," and it was thus impossible to consolidate the defense. Both appeals were rejected outright.

Yesterday's hearing was a

shambles, with both lawyers stating they had "not had time to prepare a line of defense."

It would be an understatement to say the inexperienced Mordechai Offri, less than two years a lawyer, and the US-born Jonathan Ray Goldberg are at odds over their client's line of defense.

A distressed-looking Offri, who has repeatedly stated that he had moral difficulty accepting the case, arrived an hour and a half late for the hearing.

He has stated he would refuse to turn the trial into a political one, and that his views do not coincide with the extreme right-wing Goldberg's, nor those of Yigal Amir.

On the other hand, Goldberg has made no secret of his intent that the trial have a definite political bias. After the hearing, Goldberg denied any disagreement with Offri.

Meshulam's gang run out of town after trying to stage protest

FOLLOWERS of Uzi Meshulam

and their children tried to stage a protest at the Western Wall plaza yesterday, but were dispersed by police.

Pamphlets and stickers attacking Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal were confiscated, a police spokesman said.

Police forced the several dozen children and a handful of grown-ups out of the Old City, and then escorted the group's two buses out of Jerusalem.

Police on Monday opened an investigation into Meshulam's

BILL HUTMAN

followers' activities, following a series of verbal attacks by the group on Shahal, whom they hanged in effigy, and reports of plans to assassinate the minister.

Shahal said yesterday on a tour of police installations in Judea and Samaria that representatives of the State Attorney's Office would soon begin a review of the conditions under which Meshulam's followers are serving their prison sentences.

The office has been asked by

the attorney-general to determine whether the Prisons Service is justified in keeping the followers together in one cell as they wish, Shahal said.

Meanwhile, Shahal's wife, Sara, told Channel 1 yesterday that she fears for her husband's life, especially since seeing the televised report of young children taught to chant for his death.

"The phenomena [of indoctrinating children] is worrying and frightening," she said.

State argues no police wrongdoing in obtaining information from Friedan

EVELYN GORDON

ACCUSED wiretapper Rafi Friedan's request that the indictment against him be canceled is groundless, because police did nothing wrong by asking his partner, Ya'acov Tsur, to secretly record him without telling him that Tsur had turned state's evidence, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

In a petition to the court, filed by attorney Avigdor Feldman, Friedan had asked that his indictment on some 40 counts of wiretapping be canceled, because the police broke the law by not telling him that Tsur had turned state's evidence. They then violated lawyer-client confidentiality by having Tsur tape conversations between Friedan and his attorney, Mordechai Katz, the petition charged.

Attorney Shai Nitzan, responding for the state, rejected these charges.

He said Friedan's rights had not been violated, because the police did not make use of any of the taped conversations in the indictment against him.

The tapes, he said, were meant solely to obtain evidence against Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrod, who had commissioned Friedan and Tsur to wiretap over 100 individuals and companies, and whom the police therefore considered the primary criminal.

Many of the taped conversations dealt with Nimrod's payments to the two, via Katz, to persuade them not to reveal his involvement, Nitzan continued.

These payments totaled some \$6,000 a month for each of them. However, lawyer-client confidentiality does not cover crimes in the process of being committed, so these conversations were not protected, Nitzan said.

The confidentiality law would not apply in any case, however, because confidentiality is required only of the lawyer - not of a third party, such as Tsur, who happened to be present, Nitzan added. Nitzan did not respond to Feldman's charge that Friedan should have been informed of the state's evidence agreement with Tsur, however.

Nitzan also argued that even if all of Feldman's charges were correct, the petition should be rejected, for two reasons: The High Court does not intervene in procedural decisions of a lower court, and Israeli law does not recognize police misbehavior as a reason for throwing out an indictment before the case has been heard.

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Law to prevent double party registration

THE Knesset passed a law last night aimed at preventing people from registering as members of more than one political party before the primary elections. The bipartisan-sponsored bill passed easily.

Knesset Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), who presented the bill, explained that all the parties will forward the identity card numbers of those people who enlist to the political parties registrar. The registrar will check the lists and identify those registered with more than one party.

Liat Collins

Shamgar, Dubois win Israel Prize

HELEN KAYE

FORMER Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, 71, and Father Marcel Dubois, 76, were yesterday named winners of the 1996 Israel Prize for lifetime achievement for their contribution to state and society.

Shamgar was a Supreme Court justice for more than 20 years and served as the court's president for 12. He currently heads the commission investigating prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Shamgar, the judges said, had contributed definitively to the rule of law and human rights in Israel.

Born in Danzig, Shamgar immigrated with his family in 1939. He studied law at London University and was both IDF judge advocate-general and attorney-general before his appointment to the Supreme Court.

The French-born Dubois entered the Dominican order at age 18, was ordained in 1946, and



Meir Shamgar (Joel Fishman)



Marcel Dubois

came to Israel in 1962. As a philosophy professor at the Hebrew University from 1968 to 1988 he "opened young peoples' minds to the thoughts of Aristotle and the Scholastics. He has toiled to im-

prove relations between the Christian and Jewish worlds," the judges said.

Dubois, the judges added, has linked his fate to that of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Panel told of condition of detainees

THE unpleasant conditions to which administrative detainees are subject are dictated by Prisons Service regulations, the Knesset State Control Committee was told yesterday.

MK Uzi Landau (Likud), who initiated the committee discussion, noted that right-wing detainees Shmuel Cytryn is allowed visits from family members only once a week, for two hours - and this only because of a hunger strike. Prior to the strike, his family visits were limited to half an hour every two weeks.

Similarly, Cytryn was initially allowed only 10 minutes a day on the phone, which was upped to half an hour a day after the hunger strike. He is unable to get a newspaper, cigarettes or outside food - despite the fact that all of these things are theoretically due him - and he has not been able to pray with a minyan, Landau said.

Eliahu Abram of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) noted that these restric-

EVELYN GORDON

tions are especially disturbing because administrative detainees have not even been indicted, much less convicted, and therefore must be presumed innocent. They should therefore be given many more privileges than ordinary prisoners, he said.

Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak made the same point last week in his verdict rejecting Cytryn's petition for release from detention. However, Shmuel Polites, the army's legal adviser in Judea and Samaria, said this was not in the army's control, because Prisons Service regulations govern such things as how often administrative detainees can see their families.

Both Landau and Abram also charged that there seems to be a wholesale use of administrative orders, often without considering ways to minimize the damage to the subject. Landau cited the case of Uri Amsalem, who was ordered to stay at home after 7

p.m. This was changed to 8:30 p.m. only after a legal battle, he said.

Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) said he had expected to be reassured that the army was balancing security requirements with the need to protect civil rights. However, he said, the impression he received was that it was ignoring the issue of rights altogether. Unless this impression is corrected at a second meeting on the subject, the committee will ask State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to investigate, he said.

Meanwhile, under pressure from Supreme Court Justice Zvi Tal, the state yesterday agreed to let David Shirer, who has been confined by administrative order to his home in Hebron, travel to Jerusalem once a week for work until a final decision on Shirer's petition to the High Court. Last week, Tal had issued a show-cause order on the petition, which asked that Shirer be allowed to travel freely to Jerusalem.

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The cost of the seminar includes tour bus from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and return, admission to all lectures, use of guest house facilities, twice daily bus to the sulphur baths, half-board per person in a double room, etc. etc.

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